

## De Michellis says Thatcher uncharitable

ROME (R) — Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis said British charges that Europe has done too little to support Gulf forces were "unjustified and uncharitable" and he backed a U.S. call for allies to help pay for the effort. "Europe must do its part, in economic terms, to help those countries which are paying for the political decision of the embargo (against Iraq) and the economic and political isolation of Saddam Hussein," he told reporters after a cabinet meeting. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Thursday criticised most European allies for doing too little to back the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf with arms or money. But De Michelis dismissed her comments: "To us, as Italy and as the president of the EC (European Community), Mrs. Thatcher's criticisms seem unjustified and uncharitable." He said the EC and other European organisations had "moved with efficiency and clarity of purpose" since the Gulf crisis began with Iraq's takeover of Kuwait on Aug. 2. Italy has sent three ships to help the Gulf effort.



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## Qadhafi to unveil Gulf initiative

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi will unveil an initiative to solve the Gulf crisis during anniversary celebrations Saturday of his regime's coming to power, according to JANA, the official Libyan news agency. The JANA did not indicate what the initiative for what it called a "peaceful solution to the Gulf problem" might entail. It said only that the initiative was in connection with contacts among various leaders of the Arab World, including that of Sudan's Omar Hassan Al Bashir, who was recently in Baghdad, and between a top Qadhafi aide, Mustafa Al Kharubi, and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, as well as Qadhafi's consultations in Tripoli earlier this week with King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. An earlier, brief dispatch by JANA Friday said Arafat arrived in the Libyan capital, Tripoli Thursday and met with Qadhafi later in the same day. JANA did not say what the two men discussed nor give any other details. Qadhafi took power in a Sept. 1, 1969 coup and traditionally marks the anniversary with a speech and often a military parade in Tripoli or elsewhere in the country.

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## Qasem receives Soviet message

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Thursday received a message from his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze dealing with Jordan's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis. Shevardnadze voiced his conviction that the active and tireless efforts made by Jordan, in cooperation with other Arab countries, could contribute to finding a peaceful settlement to the explosive situation in the Gulf. The Soviet foreign minister underlined the importance of unifying Arab efforts to contain the crisis, and pledged his country's support for the peaceful efforts.

## Jordan denies Israeli report

AMMAN (Petra) — An official military spokesman denied Friday a report by Reuters news agency quoting an Israeli military source as alleging that Jordan was sending reconnaissance planes over Saudi Arabia to work for Iraq, by monitoring the moves of Arab and foreign forces deployed there. The Jordanian source also denied what the Israeli source said that the Royal Jordanian Air Force (RJAF) has increased reconnaissance flights on its borders and said no change has taken place on the activities of RJAF.

## Jackson meets with Iraqi leaders

NICOSIA (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson met Thursday with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to discuss the Gulf crisis, officials said. Jackson, who flew to Iraq for the U.S. television show "Inside Edition," met first with Aziz, who explained to him the reasons behind Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, said the Iraqi News Agency. "Aziz explained Iraq's historical and legitimate rights in Kuwait and President Saddam Hussein's initiative on 12th August as being the sound foundation for reaching just and equitable solutions for all issues from which the region suffers, particularly the suffering of the Palestinian people," INA said. Later, a government spokesman said the U.S. civil rights leader met with Saddam. No details of that meeting were released immediately.

## Pakistani troops leave for S. Arabia today

KARACHI (R) — An initial 2,000 Pakistani troops leave for Saudi Arabia Saturday to join a multinational force, Interior Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said Friday. The 2,000 men and about 3,000 troops from an infantry brigade would join Egyptian soldiers as part of a pan-Islamic force. Jatoi has been strongly criticised in Pakistan for caving in to pressure from the United States and agreeing to send Pakistani troops to Saudi Arabia. U.S. troops form the bulk of the multinational force.

## U.N. panel votes for continued scrutiny of Iran situation

GENEVA (R) — A United Nations panel has voted to continue scrutiny of Iran's human rights situation, saying there has been a deterioration since a U.N.-appointed investigator visited the country in January. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, made up of independent experts from 26 countries, adopted a resolution Thursday night asking the full U.N. Human Rights Commission to take up Iran's case again at its annual session next January.

## EC to limit travel of Iraqi diplomats

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) countries plan to limit the travel of Iraqi diplomats within the trade bloc, but will postpone the official announcement until foreign women and children are released from Iraq, an EC official said Friday. The 12 community nations reached "an agreement in principle" on their plan after consultations among the EC member capitals, said the official.

# Perez de Cuellar, Aziz take 'important step forward'

U.N. chief, Iraqi minister hold two rounds of talks, schedule another session after experts meet today

By Ghadeer Taher  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter  
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz held rounds of talks aimed at finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis and scheduled another session for Saturday morning.

Perez de Cuellar and Aziz said they discussed all aspects of the Gulf crisis and agree that the situation was very tense and that all possible efforts should be exerted to defuse the crisis. Aziz told journalists at the steps of the Royal Palace that he had informed the U.N. chief that Iraq would "never initiate a military conflict with the region" and blamed the American and Western military deployment in the Gulf for making the situation "explosive."

"This situation is not Iraq's responsibility," Aziz added. He said a solution to the crisis had to be in an Arab framework.

"Iraq is searching for all ways and means to calm the situation," he said. "The crisis in the Gulf should be dealt within an Arab context... an Arab solution."

The secretary general described the three-hour-and-10-minute meeting as an "important step forward," but said: "You cannot solve a complicated problem in four, five or six hours." The secretary general and Aziz will meet Saturday after experts from both sides meet.

"I was very much interested in the implementation of Security Council Resolution 667, 662 and 664," Perez de Cuellar said. "I consider the Iraqi initiative an important step forward but as I see it is insufficient. I wish other initiatives would follow which would secure the departure of all foreigners from Iraq."

Aziz, reiterating Baghdad's position on foreigners held back in Iraq as a "deterrent against a potential U.S. attack," said: "I asked the secretary general if he could get guarantee from countries who have forces in the re-

gion that they would not attack Iraq. If we get these guarantees the problem of all foreigners would be resolved."

Aziz renewed Iraq's call for a comprehensive solution to all outstanding issues in the Middle East, including the Palestinian and Lebanese problems. "These issues could be and should be discussed on common principles and standards," he said. "There should be no double standards. Concentrating only on one issue does not resolve the problem of the region."

Asked what Iraq's position was on Kuwait, Aziz said: "No comment" in a marked departure from earlier statements that the status of Kuwait, which Iraq has declared as its 19th province, was not subject to any negotiation.

Asked about the foreign minister's linkage of the conflicts in the Middle East, Perez de Cuellar said: "I would be very happy if all decisions of the Security Council are implemented." The secretary general said he was looking forward to meeting His Majesty King Hussein after he ends his current trip "so I can get his evaluation of the situation so that I can add to his efforts to help achieve a just peace in the area."

In answer to a question about American warships stopping ships in the Gulf of Aden despite the fact that Jordan is not a party in the conflict, Perez de Cuellar said this measure "is probably being implemented within the framework of Security Council resolution number 661, but... I cannot comment on Security Council resolutions."

An Iraqi official denied a report carried by French radio that the U.N. chief had served an ultimatum from U.S. President George Bush to Iraq during Friday's meeting. The official said no such warning was delivered. The radio had said the ultimatum gave three days to Iraq to leave Kuwait.

Earlier, Perez de Cuellar and Aziz met for two hours in a

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# Foreign women, children begin departure from Iraq

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI ON Friday began fulfilling its promise to release some of the foreigners it is holding as a deterrent against a Western attack, and denied that it had imposed conditions for the release of foreign women and children.

Six more warships from the United States, Britain and the Netherlands entered Egypt's Suez Canal en route toward the Gulf. Dozens of ships have assembled in the region since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2.

About 60,000 U.S. combat troops have moved to battle stations and their number is expected to hit 100,000 soon to face Iraq's estimated 265,000 soldiers stationed in and around Kuwait.

The commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, said Friday that the U.S. deployment there is ahead of schedule, though he gave no figures.

He said there would be no war unless Iraq starts one, a move he said would bring swift retaliation and prove to be "an awfully stupid mistake."

Schwarzkopf, in his first news conference since moving his command post to Saudi Arabia, re-

peatedly ducked questions about specific U.S. military options under consideration. But he said the United States was not looking to start hostilities.

"There's not going to be any war unless the Iraqis attack," Schwarzkopf said.

While military preparations continued, 19 Italian women and children drove out of Iraq Friday, the first known Westerners to leave after President Saddam Hussein promised they could go by Saturday. Britain also said Iraq had issued exit visas to 139 British women and children who were held at a Baghdad hotel.

Director of Information Najib Al Hadithi told Reuters Baghdad was seeking the return of Iraqis prevented from leaving Britain and France but this was not a condition for the release of women and children.

Cable News Network, quoting the same official, reported from Baghdad that Iraq was demanding the return of Iraqis "stranded" in Britain and France as a condition for the promised release of foreign women and children.

Reuters asked Hadithi whether demands for the return of Iraqis abroad were a condition for the departure of the women and children. "No," he replied.

"There are no restrictions on the travel of women and children from any country," he said.

He said Iraq wanted the British and French governments to give Iraq

airways landing rights, fuel and other facilities to fly home Western women and children.

"We are waiting for their positive response in the next few hours to start transporting the women and children," he said.

Hadithi gave a breakdown of the 237 women and children who have asked to go home.

He said there were 132 Britons, 66 Japanese, 19 French, 14 Americans, two Australians and four others. "When we receive the response Iraqi Airways will immediately start to take the women and children home," he said.

Women and children from other European countries are free to leave by road, he added.

An Iraqi embassy spokesman in London, asked whether there were any restrictions on the free movement of Iraqis in Britain or on their leaving Britain, told Reuters: "As far as I am aware they can leave at any time."

Italian Ambassador to Jordan Franco Discourtan said 13 women and six children, in good health and high spirits, would be flown to Rome Saturday aboard President Francesco Cossiga's plane.

The Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome gave the breakdown as 16 women and three children.

The group left Kuwait several days ago but were held in Baghdad. Exit visas for other Italian women and children in Iraq were being processed, Discourtan said.

## Gorbachev: Gulf build-up 'very dangerous'

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev warned Friday that the military buildup in the Gulf "makes the situation explosive, very dangerous."

"We have to act responsibly, all of us, to prevent a large scale conflict," Gorbachev told a rare news conference in Moscow.

Gorbachev did not specifically criticize the United States, which is committed to send up to 250,000 troops to Saudi Arabia. But he urged a diplomatic rather than a military solution to the conflict that began with the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

The U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia was permissible under the terms of the United Nations Charter, he said.

But "we have to be aware... (that a military escalation) is always fraught with unpredictable consequences."

The Soviet Union voted in favour of a U.N. Security Council resolution authorising the use of force to impose sanctions against Iraq, but has balked at joining a U.S. naval blockade.

Asked whether he thought the United States would keep its forces in the Gulf, Gorbachev said: "I don't think that the U.S. leadership, after political solutions have been found, will retain" troops in Saudi Arabia.

Asked to comment on the military buildup in the Gulf, he said: "It makes the situation explosive, very dangerous."

The basis of the Soviet position, he said, was that "we cannot accept the annexation of Kuwait. It is unacceptable."

Gorbachev also strongly criticised Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for using military forces, rather than diplomacy, in the Gulf.

"Only those who think illogically can reject such a (peaceful) solution," Gorbachev said. "I include the president of Iraq in that number."

He denied assertions by some that the Kremlin preference for a diplomatic rather than a military solution indicated that the Soviet Union was slipping from superpower status.

"Some people think we lose our prestige and reputation. It is not so," he said.

The Middle East conflict marked one of the first times since World War II that the Soviet Union has not acted as an antagonist to the United States during a world crisis, although its support for the United States during the current tension has been lukewarm.

Although the Kremlin halted its arms shipments to Iraq, it has not withdrawn 193 Soviet military specialists and 5,000 construction workers stationed there. It pulled its diplomats out of Kuwait after Iraq ordered foreign governments to close their embassies, while the United States and several other countries have defied Iraq and kept their diplomats in Kuwait.

On Tuesday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov criticised the U.S. government for expelling 36 Iraqi diplomats.



U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar (wearing glasses) and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz (second from right) meet in Amman Friday for talks attended by senior aides (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

# King meets Thatcher, says Jordan abides by sanctions

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Friday and said later Jordan is abiding by United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq after its takeover of Kuwait.

"The government of Jordan makes it very, very clear that it abides by these United Nations resolutions," King Hussein told reporters after talks with Thatcher.

Government officials quoted by Reuters said the King and Thatcher were "quite far apart in their assessment of the causes of the dispute and ways to resolve it."

But they said the two leaders agreed on the need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

"We discussed the present very serious crisis in our part of the world and in our region and we have a better understanding of each other's positions as we are trying to achieve the objective which I have set myself to try to achieve from the world group, to stop the escalation, to stop the danger of an eruption that would have devastating effects on the region and maybe the world," the King told reporters.

Answering another question, he said: "I believe that the government of Jordan has made it very, very clear that it abides by U.N. Security Council resolutions as it expects and has called for them to be applied in other cases over many years. I mean we cannot contradict ourselves in terms of principles. We stand by them on all issues and for what better you might call here... we took position and we were at the Security Council at that period of time against the acquisition of territory by force."

Asked whether he felt optimistic, the King said: "I believe that we have re-established contact and a helpful dialogue which I hope will continue."

Asked whether he brought any specific proposals, he said: "I did not bring any proposals. I am not a bearer of a peace plan that is associated with my name or that of my country. I am trying within the area to bring many of us together to see what we can do to contribute to all the resolutions of the problem."

Officials said Thatcher discussed the Gulf crisis with U.S. President George Bush in a 25-minute telephone call before her meeting with King Hussein.

Bush and Thatcher "continue to be absolutely together upon everything that is going on," one official said.

Thatcher criticised European allies Thursday, saying they were not doing enough to support U.S. efforts in the Gulf and were relying on Washington to be "the world's policeman."

King Hussein, on an international mission to try to find a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis, said Jordan had called for U.N. resolutions to be applied in many cases over the years.

"We can't contradict ourselves in terms of principles. We stand by them on all issues," the King said.

King Hussein, who has already visited Arab capitals, is due to travel to Paris and Bonn.

King Hussein arrived from Madrid, where he spoke to King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe

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# Cairo meeting wants Iraq to leave Kuwait, pay damages

Combined agency dispatches

CAIRO — Arab states opposing Iraq demanded Friday it pull its troops out of Kuwait and pay war damages as conditions for a peace settlement of the Gulf crisis.

Conference sources said an Arab League foreign ministers' meeting decided on a five-point blueprint as a basis for peace.

The ministers repeated the league's demand for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid said the meetings had ended and that the resolutions would be announced at a press conference Saturday.

No explanation was given for the delay in announcing the resolutions, although Foreign

Ministry sources insisted it was only to allow time for the resolutions to be translated into English and French.

Sources close to the conference, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told news agencies that there were five resolutions which called for the immediate release of all foreign hostages held by Iraq and compensation to be paid to Kuwait for losses resulting from the invasion.

The third resolution calls for the well-treatment of all civilians and compensating them for any losses. The fourth is a reiteration of the league's condemnation of Iraq for the invasion and the fifth is a call for the return of the rule of Kuwait's deposed emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the sources said.

Only 13 of the league's 21 members attended the emergency meeting and only 10 of them were represented by foreign ministers. This reflects the deep split that Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion

has created in the Arab World. Kuwaiti State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Rahman Awad told reporters after the conference that five resolutions had been adopted and expressed his satisfaction with them. But he refused to give any details.

Abdul Meguid said Egypt, as the host country, will announce the resolutions at a press conference at 10:00 local time (0700 GMT) Saturday.

The other points in the blueprint adopted by foreign ministers were:

— They demanded immediate release of hostages held by Iraq, with no link between any resolution of the Gulf crisis and Westerners being detained in Iraq and Kuwait. The safety of Arab labourers should also be guaranteed, they said.

— They condemned Iraq's moves against foreign embassies in Kuwait, saying it had no right to move them to arranged by their diplomatic missions.

Some of the countries involved simply do not have the resources, whether financing for any massive airlift or arranging aircraft to fly to Amman to pick up the evacuees. And even if alternate arrangements were made to allow passenger vessels to dock at Aqaba it might take months before the first ship actually docks at the Red Sea port, marine experts say. Pakistan said it was expecting a passenger ship to dock at Aqaba Sept. 3.

Relief organisations have promised to airlift about 40,000 evacuees to their countries of origin, but no detail is available yet on the specific nationalities or when the operations will actually start.

In the meantime, arrivals are piling up at the Al Ruweished

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# Jordan grapples with huge flow of evacuees — a 'human disaster'

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is grappling with one of the gravest international crises since World War II with the massive wave of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, and the gravity of the situation has been underlined by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who described it as a "human disaster."

The Kingdom, with a population of 3.4 million people, is ill-equipped to handle the average daily flow of thousands of evacuees, and although the authorities have expanded the facilities at the Al Ruweished border post to allow in 20,000 people every day, the outflow of the arrivals simply does not match the influx, officials have said. And that is precisely where the Kingdom faces the biggest problem, particularly when seen in light of the huma-

nitarian aspects of having to hold back thousands of arrivals at the desert post in the scorching sun until there is room in the transit camps in Amman.

Al Ruweished, which used to handle an average of not more than 600 to 700 arrivals on a daily basis before Aug. 6, when Iraq opened its frontier for the hundreds of thousands of foreigners stranded in Kuwait following its takeover on Aug. 2, now handles about 18,000 to 20,000 every day.

The logistics of the evacuation process are massive, whether in terms of overland transport to the Kingdom's border with Syria, the demarcation line at the bridges across the River Jordan, or the port of Aqaba, which has been absorbing the bulk of the Egyptian evacuees, or providing transit camping facilities for the thousands of Asians and others awaiting homeward flights

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## Velayati: No obstacles to peace with Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Thursday Tehran saw no obstacles to a peace settlement with Iraq and he was prepared to host his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq Aziz, to hasten the peace process.

"We have repeatedly stressed that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the current Gulf crisis is a separate issue from peace talks between Tehran and Baghdad," Velayati said in a broadcast monitored in Nicosia.

Iran has condemned Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, but it has welcomed Baghdad's subsequent peace settlement with Iraq.

Aziz's visit is believed to pave the way for a face-to-face meeting between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and his Iranian counterpart, Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Saddam earlier this month settled a decade-long border dispute with Iraq.

He pulled troops out of Iranian territory captured in the Gulf war, and initiated an exchange of prisoners of war.

Saddam's sudden peace initiative came at a time of growing confrontation with the U.S.-led multinational forces rushed to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf.

Iraq accepted Iran's terms for a formal end to the war, including a 1975 border treaty which gives Iran the eastern half of Shari Al Arah river.

Velayati said the dispute over the treaty was the main hurdle in peace talks which followed the August 1988 ceasefire. Iran had informed Iraq it was ready for a requested visit by Aziz, he added without giving a date.

Tehran radio said 900 Iranian prisoners of war, returned home Thursday, bringing the total number of Iraqis and Iraqis repatriated over the past two weeks to over 35,000.

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## Iraq, S. Arabia shop the world for weapons

WASHINGTON (AP) — They carry assault weapons made in the Soviet Union and fight with tanks and artillery from Moscow and Beijing.

The fighter planes overhead may come from France or the Soviet Union. The multiple-launch rocket systems and surface-to-air missiles are made in Brazil. Other weaponry comes from Czechoslovakia, Egypt and South Africa.

For Iraq, arming a mighty military force has meant scouring the globe for supplies.

In the Third World, it is hardly alone in seeking the latest military technology. Saudi Arabia has F-15 fighter planes, tanks, anti-tank missiles and air-to-air missiles from the United States.

The British sold the Saudis fighter planes; the French provided anti-aircraft batteries.

And U.S. President George Bush has agreed to sell the Saudis another \$2.3 billion worth of weapons: more planes and tanks, as well as Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and depleted-uranium anti-armour rounds that have been banned from Riyadh's shopping list.

Beginning with a weapons shopping spree in the mid-1970s, the Middle East has grown into the leading market for increasingly sophisticated killing machines, from tanks to fighter planes and "smart" missiles.

And the weaponry that has flowed into the region's two leading buyers — Iraq and Saudi Arabia — is aimed across their common border in an international crisis that in some ways echoes the diffuse cold war.

Both "selling to the Saudis" and the Soviets (helping

Iran) thought we were creating allies, forging relationships on our terms in a global bipolar power struggle," said Michael T. Klare, a professor of peace and world security studies at Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

"But that's not what they thought they were doing," said Klare, who wrote a prescient article in May about the emergence of "regional superpowers" such as Iraq.

Of the more than \$300 million in arms sold to Third World countries from 1982 through 1989, Saudi Arabia and Iraq received nearly one-third of the total, according to a congressional research service analysis of U.S. intelligence data.

The United States and the Soviet Union have accounted for more than 60 per cent of that total weapons trade.

Hoping to rid themselves of dependence on the superpowers, Third World countries have been developing indigenous weapons industries, defence analysts say.

Brazil is able to build its own tanks and fighter planes, and is eager to market them. India builds large warships, artillery and missiles. Countries from Argentina to South Korea, China and South Africa also have home-grown weapons capability.

In 1978-79, the United States and the Soviet Union conducted talks aimed at clamping controls on the spread of new conventional weapons technology, but the discussions broke off after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

It would be far more difficult for such a bilateral effort to be effective in today's wide-open weapons mart.

Iran's late revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a death sentence on Russia in February 1979 for blaspheming the Muslim religion in the book.

Iran severed relations with Britain after London refused to halt publication of the book. Russia has been in hiding under guard since Khomeini's death threat.

But the British have in recent weeks acknowledged the "Satanic Verses" could be offensive to Muslims and has been seeking to patch up relations with Iran following Khomeini's death in June last year.

Musawi said that "such stands would undoubtedly be understood by the kidnappers" as goodwill gestures by the Europeans.

Musawi said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press Aug. 16 that he believed no American hostages would be freed because of the U.S. military intervention in the Gulf following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

"I don't think any American hostage is likely to be freed in the foreseeable future because of the U.S. military occupation of Saudi Arabia," Musawi said.

In the interview with Al Diyar, Musawi said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein committed aggression by invading Kuwait Aug. 2 and annexing it six days later.

"But we don't believe that Saddam's aggression should be confronted by an American occupation of our lands," he added.

Three European hostages have been freed in recent weeks. Swiss Red Cross worker Elio Erriquez was freed Aug. 13, his companion Emanuel Christen Aug. 8. They had been kidnapped in South Lebanon Oct. 6, 1989.

Irishman Brian Keenan was released Aug. 24 after nearly 4½ years in captivity.

French President Francois Mitterrand recently released Amr Naccache, a Lebanese who was

serving a life sentence for the 1980 attempted assassination of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar in Paris.

Britain has recently said it does not approve of the contents of Rushdie's novel, "The Satanic Verses," which Iran said defamed Islam.

Iran's late revolutionary patriarch, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a death sentence on Russia in February 1979 for blaspheming the Muslim religion in the book.

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## 'Iraq could have the bomb in 2 years'

WASHINGTON (R) — Cable News Network (CNN) has reported that Iraq could build a nuclear bomb in less than two years, much quicker than previously reported by private experts.

Quoting what it called a U.S. intelligence report, CNN said Iraq could "make a bomb in less than two years using the enriched uranium already in its possession."

A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman, Mark Mansfield, declined comment on the report, and a State Department official said there were differing views on the status of Iraq's nuclear programme.

Iraq has about 12.5 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium

fuel, supplied by France in 1980, possibly enough for one carefully designed nuclear weapon, nuclear weapons experts said.

According to a soon-to-be-published book by Leonard Spector and Jacqueline Smith of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Iraq has been doing research on uranium enrichment, critical to making fuel for nuclear weapons, at a small Soviet-supplied research reactor outside Baghdad.

"In view of the long lead times required to build nuclear arms, it is highly unlikely that Iraq will be able to acquire them before the mid- to late-1990s," the book concludes.

Iraq's reported effort to obtain nuclear weapons technology was

symised by a 1981 Israeli bombing raid that destroyed a large French-supplied research reactor at Osirak, outside Baghdad.

But early last year the director of U.S. naval intelligence, Rear Admiral Thomas Brooks, said in testimony to Congress that Baghdad was "actively pursuing" a nuclear weapons programme, a charge Iraq denied.

Whatever its intentions, Iraq is a part to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and thus has been subject to periodic on-site inspection of its nuclear facilities and materials by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The most recent safeguard inspections of Iraq's nuclear facilities were carried out last April.

Based on data collected until then, the IAEA concluded "all material under safeguards has been accounted for," according to a statement issued on May 7 in Vienna at the request of Iraq.

In their forthcoming book, "Nuclear Ambitions," Spector and Smith said Iraq's 12.5-kilogram cache of highly enriched uranium fuel represented only half the amount deemed necessary for a crude nuclear weapon under IAEA standards.

"Nonetheless, it could be fabricated into a nuclear weapon if a somewhat more sophisticated design were used employing techniques that have been discussed widely in unclassified sources," they wrote.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ershad offers to mediate in Gulf crisis

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mohammad Ershad offered Friday to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait but only after Baghdad withdrew its forces from the Emirate. He condemned the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and asked Baghdad to restore the Kuwaiti government. "I am quite willing to mediate on any dispute that Iraq and Kuwait may have," he told a public rally in the western town of Bhairab. "But such mediation is possible only after Iraq pulls its occupation forces out of Kuwait," Ershad said. Bangladesh, which has 50,000 nationals stranded in the Gulf, had warm relations with Iraq until the invasion. Parliament last week endorsed a government move to send 5,000 troops to join a U.S.-dominated multinational force in Saudi Arabia. The opposition Awami League and several leftist parties have called for an eight-hour general strike on Sept. 3 to protest at the sending of troops. But another major opposition group, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, says it will not take part.

### Libya denies involvement in May attack

ROME (AP) — Libya has denied U.S. allegations that it played a role in an aborted attack on Israeli beach resorts. On Monday, the State Department said the Libyan government "proved direct support in all phases of preparation" for the May 30 attack near Tel Aviv. Four Palestinian guerrillas were killed and 12 captured by Israeli forces in the seaborne raid. The official Libyan news agency, monitored in Rome, quoted an unidentified source in the foreign ministry as describing the accusations as "baseless." JANA said Libya had previously denied any involvement. The Libyan source was quoted as saying the U.S. statement was timed to divert attention from the situation in the Gulf. "The aim behind it is to draw the eyes of the world away from what is happening in the Gulf region and an attempt to silence the Arab voices which are condemning and rejecting the foreign intervention in the region," the official was quoted as saying. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has spoken out against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, but he has also been highly critical of the subsequent U.S.-led military buildup in the Gulf.

### North Korea opposes U.S. role

TOKYO (R) — North Korea said it opposed Iraq's annexation of Kuwait but called for a peaceful settlement of U.S. and other foreign troops from the region. A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, speaking to the official KCNA news agency monitored in Tokyo Friday, also denied what he called an insidious false report in a U.S. newspaper that Pyongyang was delivering arms to Baghdad. According to the agency, the spokesman said: "... We oppose Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and annexation and, at the same time, denounce the United States for taking this opportunity of massing large armed forces in the Gulf area and attempting to start a wholesale military intervention in this region." The world was watching with deep apprehension developments in the Middle East, now at a more grave stage "owing to the armed intervention of the U.S. imperialists and other outside forces," the North Korean official said. "We maintain that the Iraq-Kuwait dispute should be resolved in a peaceful way and the presence of foreign armed forces in the Gulf and their intervention in this region be discontinued," he added.

### Portuguese supply ships join Gulf force

LISBON, (AP) — Portugal has committed a naval supply ship and two civilian support vessels to the international armada in the Middle East. The ships will be the first Portuguese contribution to the multinational force opposing Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Defence Minister Fernando Nogueira announced the decision after meeting with military officials. He said naval supply ship, Sao Miguel, will help impose the United Nations embargo on trade with Iraq and Kuwait. The two civilian ships are ready to sail in answer to a U.S. request for support vessels to back warships in the Gulf, Nogueira said. Portugal is also sending a frigate to participate in NATO exercises in the Mediterranean Sea beginning Sept. 10, the minister said. The exercises are not directly linked to the imposition of sanctions against Iraq, Nogueira added.

### Swedish company built Iraqi shelters

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish companies built about a dozen bomb shelters in Baghdad which could protect Iraqis during an American air raid, construction workers said Thursday. "About a dozen shelters were built in Baghdad and surrounding areas. Plans existed for more shelters but they were never built," said Lars Eric Kindstedt, who works for Flakt, the company that installed the ventilation in the shelters in the 1980s. "The shelters

were built during the war with Iran but were empty or used as restaurants or libraries when we left them," Kindstedt said in a telephone interview. "The missile attacks by Iran had ceased by then. It is not impossible that one of the shelters was turned into a central military command but it is not something that I know about." The Swedish construction company, ABV, was contracted to build the shelters during Iraq's 1980-88 war with Iran. The respected newspaper, Dagens Industri, reported Wednesday that 14 installations were built in Baghdad in the 1980s. It said they were equipped with shock absorbers and ventilation with filter protection against gas and radiation.

### Iranian scholar Najafi dead at 96

NICOSIA (AP) — Ayatollah Marashi Najafi, a senior cleric and one of Iran's top Islamic authorities, died of a heart attack, Tehran radio reported Thursday. The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said he died Wednesday at age 96 in his home in the holy city of Qom in western Iran. Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani declared a three-day mourning in Najafi's memory. Najafi was born in the city of Najaf in Iraq in 1894. He came to Iran in 1923 on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Imam Reza. After a three-month stay in Tehran, he was invited to teach at the renowned Qom theological seminary. He remained in Iran ever since and came to be regarded as a grand ayatollah, or supreme Shiite Muslim authority, in recognition of his learning. During his years in Iraq, Najafi wrote many treatises on Islam and Shiism.

### Family of six flees Kuwait via Iraq

ATHENS (AP) — Six Greeks fled Kuwait by travelling through Iraq and crossing into Turkey, officials said Thursday. Government spokesman Vyrion Polydoros said that they had crossed into Turkey but had not contacted the Greek embassy and their whereabouts were unknown. News reports in Athens said that the six, apparently all relatives, crossed into Turkey Tuesday night. The reports identified them as four men and two women, all with the surname Antypas. "It appears they were permanent residents of Kuwait and know the southeastern Mediterranean area well," said a Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They made it out on their own and are now somewhere in Turkey, where obviously they must know some people," he said. Foreign Ministry officials estimate that there are 113 Greeks in Kuwait and Iraq, including 14 diplomats.

### Lugar wants Saddam Hussein's ouster

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Senator Richard Lugar, senior republican on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Thursday that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein must be removed from power, one way or another. "He must go, voluntarily or involuntarily," Lugar said in a speech to the annual convention of the American Legion. Whether it takes a revolt of the Iraqi people or military force from the United Nations, "we cannot leave him in power because he possesses a chemical and nuclear capability," Lugar said. He predicted that President George Bush would eventually reach the same conclusion. General Colin Powell, head of the joint chiefs of staff, told the same convention that Saddam "is the latest in a long line of leaders who rule by fear, who rule by the gun and who live by conquest." They are leaders, he said, "who dismiss reason, the rule of law and basic human values — and leaders who will be stopped. Why? because they underestimate the resolve, they underestimate the determination and they underestimate the strength of our great nation."

### Indian Muslims burn Bush effigy

NEW DELHI (AP) — Hundreds of Muslims emerged from their weekly prayers at India's largest mosque Friday and burned an effigy of President George Bush to protest the American presence in the Gulf. A cloth-and-stick effigy decorated with two American flags and "Bush" written across its face was set on fire by Muslim youths outside the Jama Masjid. "Down with America," "Long live Arab unity," the men screamed as they pummeled the effigy with fists and sticks. Then it was lit by leaders of the All India Muslim Youth and Students' council, the group that organised the protest. The council "fully supports Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and people of Iraq in their struggle against America and Israel," its president, Mohammad Younus Siddiqui, said. His speech has greeted with wild cheers and hoarse cries by about 200 demonstrators surrounding the burning effigy. The "unauthorised" burning of America, Islam has already occurred, Palestine and Arab land, and now America has entered the holy Saudi Arabian land under the pretext (of saving) Saudi Arabia," Siddiqui said. "America also wants to spoil the rich Islamic heritage of Arabs," he said. In a separate statement, the council condemned the Saudi rulers for "inviting the unholy Americans and Jews on the holy land."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Korean  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children programme  
17:30 ..... Educational programme  
18:00 ..... News Summary  
18:10 ..... Local programme  
18:50 ..... Programme review  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:50 ..... Local programme  
22:00 ..... News in Arabic  
22:30 ..... News in Arabic  
22:30 ..... Arabic play

### PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 ..... Documentary  
18:15 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Asifurrahman in France  
19:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Joint Account  
21:00 ..... Entertainment  
21:30 ..... Classical music  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:30 ..... Feature film: "Yeni Zapata"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:45 ..... Fajr  
12:36 ..... (Sunnah) Dhuha  
16:12 ..... Dhuhur  
19:06 ..... Asr  
20:26 ..... Maghrib  
20:26 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637085  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637490  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622666  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625549  
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Assiout International Church Tel. 683526  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Temperatures will be below the annual average and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be moderately moderate sea calm.  
Min/Max. temp.  
Amman ..... 17/30

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Agaba ..... 25/37  
Dekera ..... 18/34  
Jordan Valley ..... 23/30

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Agaba 36, Hamaidi readings: Amman 44 per cent, Agaba 28 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jaber ..... 773250  
Dr. Yusef Qubla ..... 623023  
Dr. Yusef Al Fiqh ..... 675909  
Dr. Mohammed Al Awd ..... 741391  
First pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 773336  
Al Asma pharmacy ..... 637025  
Nasrallah pharmacy ..... 636772  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644545  
Shamsi pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:  
Dr. Abdul Majid Sababhin ..... (—)  
Al Shamsa pharmacy ..... (985238)

### EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630341  
Rescue ..... 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade ..... 891228  
Blood Bank ..... 751121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department ..... 630331  
Hotel Complaints ..... 603800  
Power Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 897467  
Complaints ..... 787111  
Accident Municipality ..... 637025  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone ..... 623101  
Abdullah Telephone Reports ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642521/6  
Alshah Maternity, J. Amn ..... 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malinas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shamsani ..... 664174  
Shamsani Hospital ..... 669131  
University Hospital ..... 643945  
Al-Mushtaq Hospital ..... 667279  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/77  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Al-Badr, J. Amman ..... 773101/3  
Army, Mariza ..... 891611/25  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Al-Badr, Zarqa ..... (09)91071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)  
10:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
10:30 ..... Dhahran (RJ)

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in fils per kg.  
Apple ..... 300/400  
Banana ..... 300/400  
Branza ..... 400/400  
Beans ..... 300/250  
Cabbage ..... 130/100  
Carrot ..... 240/200  
Cauliflower ..... 280/200  
Corn ..... 200/150  
Cucumbers (small) ..... 140/100  
Cucumbers (large) ..... 280/240  
Eggplant ..... 160/120  
Figs ..... 350/400  
Gastic ..... 800/700  
Grapefruit ..... 350/300  
Grapes ..... 600/500  
Lemon ..... 300/250  
Mallow ..... 120/80  
Marrow (large) ..... 130/100  
Marrow (small) ..... 300/250  
Mushroom (dry) ..... 220/180  
Onion ..... 450/400  
Okra ..... 520/480  
Peas ..... 620/550  
Peas ..... 700/600  
Pepper (hot) ..... 220/180  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 220/180  
Potato ..... 400/280  
Radish ..... 150/100  
Sage ..... 550/400  
Sweet onion ..... 220/150  
Tomatoes ..... 120/80  
Watermelon ..... 120/80

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:30 ..... Riyadh (add.) (SV)  
12:00 ..... Cairo (MS)  
12:30 ..... Riyadh (SV)  
14:30 ..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)  
15:30 ..... Rome (AZ)  
17:30 ..... Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
21:40 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
06:00 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:00 ..... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Madrid (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Omdurman (RJ)  
13:15 ..... Rome, Paris (RJ)  
13:45 ..... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
22:00 ..... Doha (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 ..... Beirut (ME)



## Women stage sit-in in support of Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian women Thursday expressed their full support for Iraqi women and children and denounced the war of starvation launched by the United States against the Iraqi children.

The women, who staged a sit-in at King Abdullah's Mosque Thursday in response to a call by the General Federation of Jordanian Women, called for boycotting all goods produced by America, Britain and all the countries who sent forces to the region.

In a communique, issued at the end of the sit-in, the women expressed their resolve to adopt austere measures and to do without all forms of luxuries, to undergo civil defence training and to inculcate the moral values and the spirit of martyrdom in defence of the homeland, in their children.

They also appealed to all Jordanians to enroll in the People's Army to receive the necessary training that would enable them to defend the homeland.

Concluding their communique, the women called for an end to the inhuman war of starvation against the Iraqi people and voiced their rejection of the presence of foreign forces in the Arab region.

The federation's President Mahdieh Al Zmeili called on all Jordanians to extend every possible help to the evacuees and to help them overcome their plight.

In Madaba the Islamists organised a public rally to voice support for Iraq. Addressing the rally were the Lower House of Parliament members Ahmad Quteish, Abdul Minim Abu Zant and Hamzeh Mansour and the mayors of Madaba and Imleih.

Speakers underlined the dangers encountered by the Arab and Muslim nations and called on the Jordanian people to equip themselves to counter the challenges and threats currently facing the country.

They praised the honourable stand of His Majesty King Hussein and paid tribute to his efforts to find a pan-Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. They also called for providing support for Iraq to help it foil the economic blockade imposed by the foreign countries.

## Crown Prince visits Ruweished, stresses Jordan's need for aid

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday visited Ruweished, where thousands of evacuees are living in two camps, especially set up there to accommodate the increasing number of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

In a statement, to Radio Jordan (Arabic service), Prince Hassan said that the two camps could accommodate only 25,000 transient people, while many others live in the streets.

Prince Hassan said that 20,000 people cross the border point at Ruweished every day and that the majority do not have the means to leave to their respective countries.

"If the situation persists as it is, and if the first cry of the armed conflict is to be heard in the region, the problem will further deteriorate, and by then we will be talking about millions rather than thousands of evacuees," Prince Hassan said.

He said that contacts were under way between the governments of Jordan and the respective governments of the evacuees who came from Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and other countries.

Prince Hassan called on the governments who had pledged at the United Nations to provide support and relief assistance to Jordan to do so. The Crown Prince said he made the necessary contacts with the U.N. secretary general to ensure their repatriation.

Prince Hassan warned of another refugee problem, saying that Jordan had warned always lived this problem and does not want to see it happen again.

Also Thursday Prince Hassan appealed to the international community to provide urgent assistance to Jordan to enable it to cope with the immense task of accommodating and feeding thousands of Arab and foreign nationals arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait.

The appeal was issued after an emergency meeting held at the Royal Court and attended by ministers and directors of several departments concerned with the

## Regent receives Iraqi, Filipino foreign ministers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and wished him success in his talks with the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Aziz arrived in Amman Thursday for talks with Perez de Cuellar on the Gulf crisis. In an arrival statement, Aziz said he had come to Amman for a meeting with the U.N. Secretary General, in response to his request.

The audience was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, Abdullah Al Anbari, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations, the Iraqi Director of International Organisations Riyadh Al Qaisi and the Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail Alwis.

Also Friday, Prince Hassan received the Philippine Foreign Minister who delivered him a message from President Corason Aquino addressed to His Majesty King Hussein.

President Aquino voiced her appreciation to King Hussein for his honourable stand and for the good care accorded to Filipinos arriving in Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

Prince Hassan and the guest discussed Jordan's role in providing assistance and care to evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

The visiting minister thanked Jordan for its humanitarian assistance and its efforts to meet the basic needs of evacuees, and lauded the unique role-Jordan is playing to contain the Gulf crisis.

The minister said he would make every possible effort to ensure the repatriation of Philippine nationals.

Prince Hassan stressed that any conflict in the region would expose it to dangers and tragedies, and called for intensifying efforts for establishing peace.

The Crown Prince reiterated Jordan's position, calling for dialogue and negotiations for solving the conflict.

The audience was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem.

On Thursday Prince Hassan met with U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar and wished him success in his mission.

The Philippine foreign minister who arrived in Amman Friday for a short working visit left the Kingdom Friday.

Peace should be given a chance

In an interview conducted by U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, for a television syndicate, the Crown Prince said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was ready for negotiations and that His Majesty King Hussein was trying hard to end escalation to prevent a destructive war in the region.

Prince Hassan referred to the impressions of the Indian foreign minister and the Austrian president, who visited Baghdad recently, and said they show that the Iraqi leader was ready for negotiations.

Prince Hassan said that U.N. Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar would not visit the region if he did not believe there was a chance for peace. He said power was diplomacy and this made King Hussein struggle to prevent a possible war. The Crown Prince added "we should give peace this last chance."

## Women appeal to U.N. secretary-general for peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A letter of appeal tied with a ribbon in the colours of the Jordanian flag and an olive branch was handed on Friday to the United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is visiting Jordan in order to hold talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. The letter of appeal was written by the same group of Jordanian women volunteers who marched on Thursday Aug. 23, in support of His Majesty King Hussein.

The following is the full text of the letter of appeal:

"To: His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. From: the women of Jordan. Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned, are a group of Jordanian women representing a large cross-section of Jordanian society. We are mothers, sisters, wives, daughters who decided to write to you this appeal on the occasion of your visit to our country. We know you to be an honourable man, a citizen of the world, an international statesman who dedicated his life to serve humanity through creating conditions for justice, freedom and peace to prevail. We also know of your commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and appreciate your ceaseless efforts to uphold its lofty principles. We humbly request that you accept this appeal in the same spirit it

was written in. Your Excellency, You are well aware that our region is passing through the worst crisis in its modern history. We are not politicians, we do not understand the political machinations of governments and states. We are only concerned with the fate of the children in the Arab World who are the hope of the future. We submit that the sanctions, the embargo and the naval blockade imposed against Iraq by the Security Council will lead to untold suffering by the children of Iraq. Is it fair or just or humane to deprive children of their daily milk? Is it necessary to make the innocent women and children of Iraq pay for what the Security Council perceives to be illegal actions on the part of the Iraqi government? Do two wrongs make a right? And why the double standards? Why did the Security Council not act with such speed and decisiveness when Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights? Or when Israel raped Lebanon? Or when it annexed the Holy City of Jerusalem? We, as representatives of the Jordanian women, feel that we and our children are being persecuted. We are being denied our inalienable right to live in peace and security. Our country is being forced to make sacrifices it cannot bear under the flimsy premise of accepting mandatory Security Council resolutions. Our national economy, our indus-

try, agricultural and transportation sectors are organically tied to Iraq. Without the Iraqi market our factories will close down; our agricultural produce will be reduced and our transportation sector will be totally devastated. Our husbands will be unemployed and our sons will suffer the consequences. Is it fair to make Jordan pay for enforcing the embargo against Iraq? Or be threatened by a similar embargo? Is this in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations Charter? Your Excellency, The scourge of war is what worries us most. The massive build-up of foreign forces in the Gulf region is creating a war hysteria. We need an immediate de-escalation of the crisis. All efforts must be extended to avert war before one can start to discuss formulas for settling the crisis. Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is a moderate, peace loving country. We have always been the voice of reason and sobriety in our region. We have always upheld the principles of the United Nations Charter and advocated the settlement of disputes by peaceful means through negotiations and dialogue. You, Mr. secretary general, are a man of peace. We humbly urge you to do all you can to halt the rapid deterioration of the situation towards armed conflict; to commence a dialogue between the parties of the conflict; to alleviate the suffering of the

peoples of Iraq and Jordan by freezing the embargo so that negotiations can be conducted in an atmosphere of goodwill; and to cooperate closely with His Majesty King Hussein to arrive at an acceptable and peaceful resolution of the crisis. Your Excellency, The olive tree is a blessed tree indigenous to Jordan and the Middle East. The olive branch symbolises peace. We beseech you to take the olive branch you are extending to you and carry it back with you to the Security Council and its permanent members. We pray for your continued good health and success in your noble endeavours. Peace be unto you, and the mercy and blessings of the Almighty God."

The letter was signed by representatives of Jordanian women which included: Janette Al Mufli, Leila Madi, Ghida'a Al Saudi, Leila Khalifeh, Bara'a Faroun, Laila Jndeb, Zein Khalifeh, A'shali Al Farah, Nazimeh Ararat, Salwa Taber, Adibeh Al Qaderi, Hadia Madi, Sawwan Mufleeb, Lubna Sabbagh, Nadia Tabaa, Sitta Hadid, Nimra Tannous, Samira Kousus, Randa Mufleeb, Wejdan Saket, Fadia Hamzeh, Ghada Kambawi, Hala Shagum, Lamia Sati, Hiat Mufleeb, Affaf Dajani, Khadijah Abdul Samad, Shima Tabaa, Abba Kilani, Basma Mufleeb, Mounwar Al Nouri, Affaf Baghdad, Rida Izzadine.

## Meeting stresses need for common Arab stand

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament Deputy Hussein Mjalli returned home Friday after taking part in a conference held in Libya to discuss the situation in the Arab Gulf region.

Mjalli said participants in the three-day conference, which was attended by 300 Arab personalities, affirmed that "the challenge the Arab Nation is facing in the Arab Gulf region is an American plot against all the Arab World, not only against one Arab country."

He said the participants believed that a unified Arab stand that can prevent "the American-Zionist" intervention in the Arab World was still possible.

He said that the conference found it necessary to hold an extraordinary summit to be attended by Iraq, Syria and Jordan to reformulate relations among the three Arab states and to confront the current crisis in the Gulf region.

The participants in the conference believe the Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi is the qualified person to bring the summit into being, Mjalli said.

The conference affirmed that it cannot be accepted to leave the U.S., the first enemy of the Arab Nation, to be the leading party in the crisis under the cover of the Arabs' inability to deal with it, because this cripples the Arab will and humiliates Arab dignity," Mjalli said.

## Jordanians urge U.N. to apply resolutions indiscriminately

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of people from all walks of life in Jordan, including 14 members of the Lower House of Parliament, Thursday called on United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is currently in Amman, to arrange for implementing the provision of all United Nations Security Council resolutions issued since 1947.

In a memorandum signed by thousands of Jordanian citizens, the signatories said that the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, in their chronological order, is capable of solving all regional disputes all over the world.

They said that selective application of the Security Council resolutions and the dominance of powers, who have special interests in implementing the resolutions, was the prevailing practice at the U.N.

The signatories called on the U.N. to be fully aware of its status and to live up to its responsibilities in defending the future of peace and safeguarding its own existence. They voiced hope that right will triumph in the end, and that peace will prevail.

They called on the superpowers, the symbols of power in the world, to be advocates for the right, justice and peace rather than tools for oppression and humiliation of the people.

In another development, the Islamist Bloc at the Lower House of Parliament warned of the outbreak of a devastating war in the region and called for finding a peaceful solution to the crisis, to enable all people to live peacefully and safely. The bloc warned of the grave dangers of foreign intervention in the region. It said that the Security Council resolution 665 called for applying the minimum sanctions or measures against Iraq and it was assumed that the U.N. rather than the U.S. was to have the final say on how to apply these measures.

The bloc voiced earnest hope that the U.N., through its secretary-general, will apply one standard to all people, be it the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people or any other.

The Islamists wished Perez de Cuellar success in his efforts to find a solution to the Gulf crisis. The bloc noted that the Gulf crisis was an inter-Arab and Islamic affair, and thus should be solved within the Arab and Islamic framework.

They said that the stationing of foreign forces in the region would further aggravate the situation in the region and will add fuel to the fire rather than help extinguish it.

## Shbeilat: Iranians remain anti-U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-member parliamentary delegation, formed by deputies Laith Shbeilat, Mohammad Alawneh and Yacoub Qarash, returned home Thursday at the end of a visit to Tehran where they met with Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and parliament speaker Mahdi Krubi and exchanged views on the Gulf crisis.

In a statement to the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Shbeilat said the Iranian and Jordanian peoples' views on the Gulf crisis were identical. Shbeilat said that the visit was successful and fruitful and that it provided a good opportunity for the exchange of views on the Gulf crisis. He pointed out to the fact that the Iranians are fully aware of the dangers posed by the existence of foreign forces in the region not only to Iraq, but also to the whole Islamic world.

Shbeilat said that time was mature for restoring diplomatic ties between Iran and Jordan and called on the Jordanian government to speed up the restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

He said the Iranians had welcomed the initiative of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to accept Algiers' agreement and to exchange prisoners of war and that Tehran was looking forward to normalisation of relations with Iraq.

He said the Iranians were awaiting a visit by the Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to settle all outstanding issues.

## Austria values Jordan's efforts — envoy

By Abdullah Hasanat  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Austria is deeply moved by Jordan's efforts to find a peaceful settlement for the Gulf crisis and the help the country extended during President Kurt Waldheim's visit which led to the subsequent release of Austrians detained in Iraq, the Austrian ambassa-

dor to Jordan, Dr. Franz Pernegger, said Friday. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Ambassador Pernegger said: "There is a great sympathy and esteem in my country for the role of His Majesty King Hussein in giving every possible assistance to the primarily humanitarian initiative of President Kurt Waldheim. Last Friday (Aug. 24) Presi-

dent Waldheim arrived in Jordan and held talks with the King before leaving for Baghdad Saturday morning. The Austrian president held three rounds of talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein before returning to Amman with 96 Austrians who used to work in Iraq and Kuwait.

"The release of Austrian civilians in Iraq and Kuwait was greatly due to the spontaneous support we received from the Jordanian authorities," Dr. Pernegger said.

"There is a strong feeling in Austria that coincides with Jordan's view that peace in the region must be given a chance," the ambassador said.

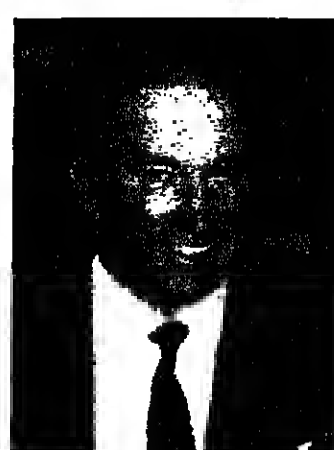
"Austria would certainly be happy if a peaceful settlement could be reached in an Arab context on the basis of Security Council resolutions."

Austria's political leadership is fully aware that the effect of any confrontation in the Gulf "would go beyond the region," the ambassador said.

The ambassador quoted an Iraqi embassy official in Vienna as telling the Austrian News Agency (ABA) that Iraq's decision to release Western women and children from Iraq was an indirect consequence of President Waldheim's visit.

During his three meetings with President Saddam Hussein, Waldheim "pleaded for the release of all civilians irrespective of their nationality," Pernegger said. "He explained that that would be an effective step to deescalate the conflict."

President Waldheim, "who experienced the bitter years of



Dr. Franz Pernegger  
World War II, was not a mediator," the ambassador said. "He came to Iraq and Jordan to listen and to find out possibilities of dialogue."

## Kuwait embassy says solution for Gulf exists

AMMAN (R) — Kuwait's embassy in Amman launched a thinly-veiled attack Friday on Arab leaders trying to find an Arab solution to the Gulf conflict.

"Some are talking about an Arab solution to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. We ask them what they mean by an Arab solution," said an embassy statement without naming the Arab states to which it referred.

"We see that what they are trying to do is to confuse the situation and give the invaders time to cement the de facto situation in Kuwait," it said.

The embassy statement said: "We regard any move outside the concepts adopted by Arab, Islamic and international legitimacy as unwanted and suspect..."

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zara displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).

Drive carefully!  
Traffic can be hazardous

## INVITATION

Under the patronage of

His Royal Highness  
Crown Prince Hassan

H.E. the Minister of Tourism and Antiquities - the Department of Antiquities, has the pleasure to invite the public to visit the archaeological exhibition entitled

"All Lajjun - A Roman Frontier Fort"

organised in cooperation with the University of North Carolina.

Starting on Sept. 3 till Sept. 15, 1990 at the Registration and Research Centre - Department of Antiquities / Jabal Amman.

The exhibition will open daily from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. / 4-7 p.m. for group and school visits please call 644482 / Mrs. Hanan Kurdi.

## THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL THE BRITISH CURRICULUM SCHOOL IN AMMAN Is now open for registrations for the September Term 1990

<b>AGE RANGE:</b>	Boys and Girls aged 3 years to 14 years. This includes a Nursery class where the children follow a carefully thought out and planned curriculum which will give them the basic skills and concepts necessary to begin formal schooling the following year.
<b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:</b>	English
<b>PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH REQUIRED:</b>	None
<b>OTHER LANGUAGES OFFERED:</b>	Arabic and French
<b>NATIONALITIES ACCEPTED:</b>	All
<b>TEACHING STAFF:</b>	All U.K. qualified and experienced within their speciality.
<b>ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE:</b>	Specialist teachers ensure that non-English speakers make very rapid progress.
<b>OTHER SPECIALIST TEACHERS:</b>	Physical Education; Music; Drama; Science; Maths; English etc. The aim is to incorporate the best traditions of the British educational system with the needs of an international community.
<b>SPORTS:</b>	Football; Basketball; Volleyball; Athletics; Gymnastics etc.
<b>TRANSPORT:</b>	Buses are available to cover principal residential areas
<b>ENQUIRIES:</b>	The School is presently accepting registrations for the September term. The school will also be open for registrations everyday in July and August between the hours of 9.00 and 12.00 noon. The new term begins on Sunday 9th September. P.O. Box 2002 Tel: 841070



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

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## 'Important step forward'

YESTERDAY'S talks between the U.N. secretary general and the Iraqi foreign minister were off to a good start. The statements the two gentlemen made after their evening meeting, coupled with the agreement to meet again today, are indeed encouraging, given the severity of the circumstances surrounding them and the diversity of their starting points before the talks started.

How confident about the results we can be at this stage, we do not know. But we remain hopeful that the dialogue itself will be the precursor to some positive steps that can be taken to avert war first and foremost.

Upon his arrival in Amman on Thursday, the U.N. secretary general said he had no mandate to renegotiate the terms of the string of U.N. Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Gulf. With all fairness to him, the Security Council resolutions in fact preclude him from entering into negotiations with Iraq on the contents of these resolutions. The only thing left for the U.N. secretary general to do would thus be to discuss the modalities and timing of their implementation with the Iraqi government and report back to the Security Council on these discussions. Accordingly it would have been and remains unrealistic to expect a breakthrough in the U.N.-Iraq talks. At best the talks can explore other options over and above the Security Council resolutions which may include the possibility of adopting an additional Security Council resolution either amplifying the previous ones or even amending them. This is where other chances for peace in the Gulf could lie.

The other "important step forward" that the secretary general mentioned but did not elaborate on might have well been Mr. Aziz's expressed willingness to entertain accepting U.N. resolutions 660 to 665 if earlier Security Council resolutions, concerning the Palestine problem and Lebanon, were to be "discussed" and "put on the table" as well.

Iraq, as is well known, has taken a couple of peace initiatives before in which it expressed its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait provided that the withdrawal came within the context of an Arab solution and if Israel would withdraw from the occupied territories. In the two initiatives, President Saddam Hussein called for an international conference to discuss the proposed withdrawals, but unfortunately the world misunderstood him again for thinking that he was calling on Israel to withdraw from Arab territories and Syria from Lebanon before he would actually pull out his troops from Kuwait. Mr. Aziz's statement yesterday should hopefully then clear the air of any further misunderstanding or misconception of the true Iraqi position on the question of withdrawal from Kuwait.

It is true that Resolution 660 demanded the unconditional pullout by Iraq of its forces from Kuwait. But it is equally significant that Perez de Cuellar emerged from the meeting yesterday encouraged by what he had heard from the Iraqi foreign minister, who in his statement to the press did not reject any U.N. resolution out of hand. The point would not have been lost on an experienced and able diplomat, as Mr. Perez de Cuellar, for him to describe the talks as "important step forward."

Contrary to what is being said or heard publicly, some important visitors to Baghdad recently described the Iraqi position as "open" to any and all ideas on the final status of Kuwait. Such concepts and proposals as the U.N. secretary general can come up with soon may therefore be welcome by the Iraqis. If all concerned can work together to reduce the chances of war breaking out soon, the chances will be greatly improved that a settlement can be found to everybody's satisfaction.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday called on the United States to listen to reason and give a chance to the diplomatic efforts being launched by His Majesty King Hussein and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The paper said that Washington should not listen to Henry Kissinger the enemy of peace, the Arabs and Islam and the architect of all the conspiracies against the Arab people. The paper was referring to Kissinger's call on the U.S. administration to ignore the question of foreign nationals and their wives and children, and to go ahead with plans to launch aggression on Iraq regardless of the consequences. Although an American citizen, Kissinger has always placed Israel's interests above those of the United States whose nationals are of no meaning to him as long as Israel's aims and ambitious objectives are achieved, said the paper. What Kissinger demands is a clear manifestation of his racist ideas and hatred to everything which is not Jewish or Zionist as he is indifferent to the loss of thousands of Arab and foreign nationals in the deserts of Arabia, and also the destruction of the Arab oil wealth as long as Israel's interests are safeguarded, the paper added. It said that Kissinger wrongly believe that Israel will come out safe and sound from a conflict in the Gulf and that Zionism will come out victorious. Kissinger's advice to Washington to launch the aggression, the paper added, has clearly exposed Zionism's evil to the whole world.

Al Dustour daily on Friday commended the government's moves to issue ration cards and rationise consumption of food supplies, describing it as a positive step to enhance the Jordanian people's steadfastness in the face of any eventuality. The paper said that Jordan is probably paying the price of the Gulf crisis and is now feeling the effects of the embargo imposed on Iraq and at the same time resisting pressure to change its position with regard to the crisis. Rationing of food, the paper said, is one way of controlling consumption and a show of solidarity among the members of the Jordanian family in the face of this crucial moment and in an attempt to overcome the current hardship.

## VIEW FROM AMMAN

# Jordan and the 1990 Gulf crisis

By Kamel Abu Jaber

WE are not yet over the 1990 Gulf crisis. The tension remains high though it has moved to another level. It remains to be seen how the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein, United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and others bear fruit. It is hoped that the lull, the breathing spell now, for that is what it is, would be a long one, thus allowing more time and space for the peace efforts to continue, or just the calm that usually precedes the storm.

I had the chance to meet with scores of mass media people, mainly from the Western world, over the past month. I must admit that I was shocked at how they viewed the situation and not only vis-a-vis Jordan and their misinterpretation of its position and motives, but almost everything dealing with the crisis. Though Jordan has repeated time and again that it is calling for withdrawal of Iraqi forces and the restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait, a stand not dissimilar to what the

West was advocating — it was horribly attacked and vilified in the Western media. That vilification was caused by Jordan's advocacy of allowing time for negotiations to commence; that it is impossible to negotiate, or to think clearly it was impossible to think while a bayonet was stuck close to your heart.

For, while Jordan agrees in principle with all United Nations resolutions regarding the crisis, it simply advocated a different, more rational approach.

As things turned out thus far, Jordan's approach has been vindicated. All along Jordan, kept repeating time and again that the further isolation of Iraq would tend to further radicalise it and that the solution must be principally an Arab and certainly a negotiated non-military one. While almost everyone else was over-heated and seemed determined to do exactly the wrong thing at the wrong time, only our Jordanian leadership kept its

cool. It needs to be registered most emphatically, that Jordan's treatment, and especially the position of King Hussein, by the Western mass media, was not only most unjust, and in some cases even downright rude and unprofessional, but also often exceedingly superficial.

Among the many surprises and shocks that this crisis has uncovered is the thinly veiled Western hatred of the Arabs. The merits of the situation, whether right or wrong did not seem to matter. What seemed to matter most, was that the occasion provided further opportunity to expand the ubiquitous Arab-bate campaign. Whether radical or moderate, friend or foe, all Arabs are ultimately treated the same. It was shocking to discover that in Western eyes, the only good Arab is a dead one, which leaves us with the question of how to deal with the West, especially when the dust of this crisis settles and it too becomes part of history.

It is important, vitally important to commence immediately searching for ways and means whereby we can communicate with the West. The mass media, in its instant expertise, black and white approach and simplified, sometimes even simplest analyses has been cause for further estrangement between East and West. Partly because some deliberately misunderstand or refuse to see or hear, and partly because of our often irrational and contradictory behaviour. Mostly, however, it is because of the media's penchant to insist that, "anyone who is not with me totally is surely against me!" Curious behaviour to say the least, especially as it comes from Westerners who are supposedly liberal. If liberal, means anything, it is that one allows for another point of view to be expressed without prior judgment.

It would have been the easiest thing for Jordan to sit on its hands and do nothing. Or alternatively to simply ac-

cuse or even keep quiet. We took the characteristic honourable and courageous step of attempting to mediate the situation and for that the vilification campaign.

And what of the attitude towards the Iraqi role in the crisis? Again, this is not in defence of Iraq; which incidentally, it does not need from me, but to simply ask the question: Why has all the overtures by President Saddam to negotiate, been turned down off handedly? Why cannot the West sit down and prove to itself if not to the rest of the world that this is only Iraqi theatrics? If it really is as the West claims, Saddam's visit to the British families was termed in the Western media a cruel travesty of theatrics and his release of the women and children of the foreign families Machiavellian. Amazing how things get twisted around so that the simple humanitarian gesture is portrayed as a monstrous travesty playing on human emotions. Would it have been better not to show the

families on television screens? Would it have been better, not to release the children and the women? Would it have been better had Jordan not played a role in all this?

The West must stop and think not only of its own grudges, or aches and pains, but of the intense terror to which we have been subjected, and not only in the past month, but throughout this century. The spectre of eleven fleets aimed to the teeth in the Gulf, stealth and not so stealth bombers, nuclear and chemical weapons... et al was a frightful one. We need to remove the barriers that cause the continuing mistrust, misunderstanding even hatred. For should this crisis be somehow overcome, another would soon erupt. That is why the problems of the region should be viewed together and that is why the Palestine problem, mother of all problems, in the region should be addressed.

And finally, the West owes Jordan an apology.

## Europe's support of U.S. against Baghdad is fragmented, shy

By Lyndsay Griffiths

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Western allies are rallying round the military might of the United States under the threat of war in the Gulf but analysts say Europe's support is neither unified nor steadfast.

"In the case of crisis, an alliance always draws closer. If the situation grows more relaxed, people will follow their own special ideas and grow apart again," said George Stambuk, a European expert at George Washington University.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, Washington has led a huge multi-national effort — both diplomatic and military — to oust Iraq and restore the Kuwaiti emir to power.

"The common interests are coming out. But there are differences," said Stambuk. "The Americans have perhaps gone a little faster than the Europeans would have liked."

There are about 100,000 U.S. troops in or headed to the Gulf, backed by smaller European and Arab forces.

"But that support for the U.S. may vanish if there is no successful action soon," Stambuk predicted.

And while European condemnation of Iraq's invasion has been universal, the Nations have not reacted in concert.

Some have sent warships, planes or troops to the Gulf, others have sent nothing. Some have voiced doubts about the vast U.S. buildup, others have backed Washington all the way.

The European newspaper in Paris noted the continent was both timid and divided, covering behind the might of the United States.

"Once again European has hidden behind superpower America, leaving President (George) Bush to make the big decisions while its component nations simply reverted to their historical national selves," the newspaper said.

But an official at the British embassy said it was logical for Western European nations to huddle round the United States rather than draw closer together.

"America now is the one superpower in the world. It's only natural it should have some leadership role," said the official who did not want to be named.

"But it would be very wrong to look at the crisis as America against Iraq. We're all in this," he added.

John Steinbruner of the Brookings Institution said the crisis had acted as a bond for Western allies amid a fast-changing Europe.

"This episode has solidified and encouraged cooperation between Europe and the United States more than we realise," he said. "And the European support was critical for encouraging Soviet cooperation."

But he cautioned Europe could back off — albeit quietly — if Washington grew impatient with diplomacy. "European reaction is going to

be very strong on keeping the military objective very narrowly defined to defending Saudi Arabia," said Steinbruner. "For freeing the hostages and getting Iraq out of Kuwait, they want to depend on sanctions."

Any U.S. attempt to destabilise Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would be frowned on as dirty tactics by Europe, just as a premature military strike by Washington could also alienate European opinion.

"With a hammer in your hand, you're always tempted to go pound something," said Steinbruner. "But Europe would quietly and wisely balk at that."

Expressing this consensus, the European newspaper said: "The United States decided to call into action that vast military machine we all know too well."

"Other countries are shyly joining in," it said. "An act of courage, certainly — if it works. If it does not, it will be remembered as any act of foolhardiness."

## Singapore wants to be like Switzerland not Kuwait

By Jose Katigbak

Reuter

SINGAPORE — Iraq's takeover of Kuwait has strengthened Singapore's conviction that it must be strong to deter potential aggressors.

"If Kuwait had been better prepared and managed to keep the Iraqi troops at bay for some time, other countries could have come to its assistance. We should always remember the Chinese saying 'in peace, prepare for disaster'," politician Lau Ping Sun told constituents.

Defence analysts said the swift fall of Kuwait vindicated Singapore's "total defence" strategy which required everyone to be prepared to face an emergency.

About 250,000 reservists, a tenth of the population, can be called to arms in six hours.

A foreign defence attaché said Singapore's military muscle had transformed it into a "poisoned pawn," meaning potential aggressors would pay a high price if they

attacked it. "There is a lesson in the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait for us," First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said shortly after Iraqi troops stormed into Kuwait on Aug. 2.

He said Singaporeans should take military service seriously and not press for their two-and-a-half year's service, mandatory for all males, to be reduced.

Military and civil defence exercises are a way of life in Singapore.

Officials say they need to educate people on the importance of being prepared because almost three quarters of the 2.6 million population were born after World War II and many have known nothing but affluence and peace.

But Goh's remark that Singapore should not allow itself to become like Kuwait, wealthy but unable to defend itself, drew sharp responses from newspapers in neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia.

They said it was inappropriate

for Goh to raise doubts about the sincerity of other countries when talking of Singapore's security.

"Is there anyone of the leaders of Singapore's neighbours who is feared to be a possible Saddam Hussein?" asked an editorial in the Malaysian newspaper Berita Harian.

Harakah, a twice-weekly publication of the pan-Islamic party of Malaysia, said in an article reprinted in the Straits Times on Aug. 18: "It is a fact that even if a Saddam Hussein were to emerge in this region he would not dare attack Singapore, given its strength."

"Singapore claims its strength is defensive for fear the Malaysian or Indonesian governments might fall into the hands of a group that might attack Singapore," it added.

"But what if Singapore were governed by a Saddam Hussein? Then the security of Malaysia and Indonesia would be threatened." Goh, who takes over from Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

this year, said Singapore lived in "a friendly neighbourhood," but cautioned that threats could come unexpectedly from any quarter.

"When we can take care of ourselves, we also contribute to regional stability," he said, adding that all countries in the region were actively cooperating to make the neighbourhood more stable and prosperous.

Other ministers said the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait showed countries could not rely on friendship alone to ensure peace.

Communications and Information Minister Yeo Ning Hong said the fastest way to make enemies and invite invasion was to generate wealth and ignore defence.

Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said in a speech: "Singapore does not want to suffer the fate of Kuwait. Nor does it want to be like Israel."

"Singapore wants to be like Switzerland living in peace with its neighbours," he said.

## Gulf crisis hits poor countries' hopes for aid

By Francois Raitberger

Reuter

PARIS — The Gulf crisis and rising oil prices loom large over a United Nations conference opening on Monday to seek ways of helping the world's poorest countries out of grinding misery.

Surging oil prices and military spending, coupled with fears of a recession and higher interest rates, will hit the world's poorest nations hardest just at the time they had been expecting an aid windfall from money diverted from defence due to easing East-West tension.

All of them are oil importers, highly dependent on foreign aid and unable to react quickly to an economic upheaval.

"The Gulf crisis will widen the gap," said Yves Bernhetot, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

The amount of aid available from rich countries could shrink as the United States asks allies to help bear the huge cost of its military buildup in the Gulf and give billions of dollars in aid to nations hurt by a U.N. trade embargo against Iraq and its Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Delegates also fear the Gulf crisis will overshadow the conference, a unique opportunity for nations soaked down into poverty to highlight their plight and air grievances.

"I pray for the crisis' impact to be minimal," said A.G.H. Mohindin, representative of Bangladesh, the biggest of the 41 states on the list of the world's poorest countries.

Some 150 countries will attend the U.N. conference on the least developed countries, the second in nine years, to assess aid plans in the past decade and set targets for the next one.

Experts say the first meeting led only to frustrated hopes. Many rich countries failed to meet the aid target set at 0.15 per cent of their gross national product. The world's two biggest economies, the United States and Japan, fell far behind and the average only reached 0.09 per cent.

During the nine years, the number of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) rose from 29 to 41, most of them in central Africa.

Their populations grew faster than their economies, their share of world trade shrank, and their foreign debt nearly doubled to \$69 billion.

Statistics tell of misery for the LDCs' 420 million people. With an average annual income of \$227 per head, each person can save only seven dollars a year. Average life expectancy is 48

years compared with 73 in developed countries.

In a preliminary message to the meeting, French President Francois Mitterrand said the rich countries could "not leave the people of the south in need and despair when winds of freedom blow almost everywhere."

Mitterrand, a strong supporter of Third World aid, is due to inaugurate the conference. U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is also due to attend on his return from his Middle East peace mission.

But as experts hastily tried to assess the effects of the Gulf crisis, differences remained on aims for the next decade.

A draft final resolution left open whether the aid target should remain at 0.15 per cent of donors' GNP or be raised to 0.20 per cent to double the actual average.

## 'We are facing a crisis of a world gone mad'

King Hussein of Jordan August 1990

The following letter was made available to the Jordan Times by the Basira-Insight group which is an organisation founded in Jordan in 1982 by American and Western women living in the Kingdom to promote understanding and awareness of the Middle East. The letter was addressed to the members of the Congress in the United States and Parliament members in the United Kingdom.

THIS is an appeal to you to do your utmost to search for a diplomatic solution to the explosive situation that exists in the Middle East. We echo King Hussein's feelings as we watch with disbelief the terrifying chain of events bringing us to the brink of war.

The lightning military response by the U.S. and its allies to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait pre-empted substantial diplomatic negotiations and circumvented other possible solutions. This military reaction resulted in Iraq's holding of foreign nationals against their will and the forced closure of diplomatic missions in Kuwait. We neither condone these actions, nor Iraq's initial transgression, the acquisition of territory by force.

From the onset of this crisis Jordan has come under increasing pressure to comply with the Security Council's resolution on sanctions against Iraq. It is very easy for wealthy industrial nations to insist that others follow this implementation, but for the following reasons, to name only a few, it is very difficult for a country such as Jordan, to do so:

1. The order to uphold U.N. sanctions, when Jordan's economy is already under strain, is catastrophic. As best determined, Jordan stands to lose 48 per cent of its GNP due to loss of trade with Iraq.
2. The present state of economy makes it difficult for Jordan to provide for its own needs, much less the needs of thousands of refugees arriving from Iraq.
3. The percentage of unemployed in Jordan before this crisis was estimated to be 20 per cent. The possible influx of up to 300,000 expatriates returning without jobs will bring the unemployment figures to unacceptable proportions.
4. The recent democratisation in Jordan has encouraged new freedoms of expression by the population. As in all democracies, these opinions cannot be ignored.
5. The increased instability in the region makes it necessary for Jordan to be more vigilant towards the territorial ambitions of its neighbours.

Should the United States and its allies resort to military force, short-term goals might be satisfied, but the forces unleashed by this action could precipitate a scenario we dare not imagine. The highest priority must be given to Arab and international diplomatic efforts to defuse this crisis. We ask you, our elected representatives, to halt military escalation and support all diplomatic efforts to resolve this crisis.

Basira-Insight P.O. Box 6367 Amman, Jordan

## Meeting wants Iraq to quit Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad or try to close them. They refused to recognise Baghdad's "annexation" of Kuwait and its naming of the emirate Iraq's 19th province.

They said Iraq should pay Kuwait for damage caused by the invasion and subsequent losses.

They said the security of Kuwait assets inside Kuwait, such as funds in the central bank, should be guaranteed.

The ministers also reiterated a league summit call for the return of the ousted Al Sabah family to power and emphasised that any Arab solution to the crisis should have an Arab League mandate, the conference sources said.

They issued a general statement implying backing for the right of Gulf Arab states to defend themselves by seeking help.

The sources said this upheld the league's majority decision that Arab countries could send troops to "defend" Saudi Arabia against any Iraqi attack.

Egypt, Syria and Morocco have sent contingents to Saudi Arabia, where a U.S.-led military force has also assembled.

The sources said the demand that Baghdad pay for damage caused during the fighting and later disruption, particularly to oil production, came from Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

These are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain.

One Arab diplomat said after the meeting that the hard stand — raising the issue of war reparations — showed the new face of the Arab League.

"We are a majority," he said, dismissing the non-attendance by Iraq, the PLO, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, Mauritania and Jordan. The ministers unanimously decided to hold another meeting on Sept. 10 in Cairo, less than a week after the decision appeared a preemptive strike against Iraq and others, apparently underestimating a scheduled meeting due to be held in Tunis in September.

Conference sources said earlier many of the 13 ministers feared a meeting hosted by Tunisia would provide Iraq with a forum to push its case ahead of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.

The league blueprint appeared to contain a structure for ending Iraq into a peace settlement, bearing out pessimism expressed by U.S. President George Bush about any quick mediated resolution of the crisis.

The resolutions underscored the Arab League's inability to come up with a viable diplomatic solution to the crisis. They partly echoed resolutions passed at the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo Aug. 10.

In addition to condemning Iraq, 12 Arab countries at the summit agreed to send Arab troops to Saudi Arabia. It is those same 12 states, in addition to Libya, who accepted Egypt's invitation for the emergency council meeting, which reviewed a report from Secretary-General Chadi Khatib on how the summit resolutions were carried out.

On Thursday, Khatib told reporters that the ministers had reviewed reports on efforts by some Arabs to defuse the crisis.



## Brotherhood stages anti-U.S. protest

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**MAHATTA**—The Jordanian capital Friday witnessed the fiercest outbreak yet of anti-American sentiments fuelled by Washington's military deployment in the Gulf with calls on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to declare a holy war against the United States and Israel.

During the largest political rally held today in the capital, about 15,000 people expressed their strong opposition to foreign intervention in the region and their willingness to fight alongside Iraq if threatened by Western military forces.

During the rally, organised by the Muslim Brotherhood,

participants chanted anti-American slogans and burned the American flag in this working class suburb of Amman.

In an emotionally charged atmosphere further highlighted by the presence of thousands of women, leaders of the Brotherhood, which holds 22 seats in the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, reiterated calls made by Islamic leaders in Jordan over the last four weeks on Muslims of the world to unite against the "invasion of the holy land by non-Muslim Western troops."

Thousands of scarved women and children in green headbands participated in the rally and echoed the call of their leaders to Saddam to

"declare a holy war." The holy war, speakers said, "would of course include Israel as well as enemies of Islam."

Speakers, who included fiery Lower House Deputy Sheikh Abdul Minem Abu Zant and Brotherhood spokesman Ziad Abu Ghanimah, called for an immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from the region.

Abu Zant, a maverick member of the Brotherhood, called the U.N. Security Council a "council of destruction" for endorsing international sanctions against Iraq.

With harshly worded slogans against what they described as "occupation troops" in Saudi Arabia which houses Mecca and Medina, speakers

questioned the record of the U.N. in efforts to implement Security Council resolutions on the Palestinian problem and asked what the world body had done to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Speakers also called on the Jordanian government to arm all Jordanians in preparation against any attack by outside forces.

Bitter attack against the U.S. and the burning of American, Israeli and sometimes British flags have become more frequent as anti-foreign intervention and pro-Iraq rallies have continued to draw large crowds in Jordan recent weeks.

Although Friday's rally was attended by over 15,000 people, it was not clear whether all

of them were direct supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood as a political group or were motivated by the pan-Arab sentiments sparked by Iraq's open defiance of the United States and the West. During several past rallies, it appeared that over half the attendance participants espoused Arab nationalist sentiments than any outright support for the Muslim Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood has also participated in rallies organised by other blocs such as the Baathists and leftist-oriented groups but always been careful to emphasise that Brotherhood members were participating in their individual capacity rather than as a political group.



A scene from Friday's rally at Mahatta (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

## 'Important step forward'

(Continued from page 1)

private session, which the secretary general described as "useful."

"We had a useful discussion during which we discussed all aspects of the present situation," he told reporters.

"We are convinced these meetings are useful and important. That is why we are continuing..." he added.

Perez de Cuellar, in an arrival statement Thursday, said he was not coming here to negotiate but to exchange views with Aziz. He said he had to come to find out whether Iraq would comply with Security Council resolutions demanding Baghdad withdraw from Kuwait and release all foreigners.

"I cannot make concessions or negotiate resolutions adopted by the Security Council," Perez de Cuellar told reporters at the Marjeh military airport. "These are not my resolutions to negotiate."

Aziz gave no hint of compromise and issued a strong statement when he arrived in Amman.

"The Arab Nation will achieve its goals despite the world conspiracy and challenges awaiting it. Our fight is historic. We should wage it with honour. Victory, God willing, will belong to the Arab Nation," Aziz told reporters.

He told Jordan Television he would discuss all aspects of the Gulf crisis during his talks with the secretary general.

"I am optimistic about the future of the Arab Nation. I am here to listen to Mr. Perez de Cuellar. I won't make any commitments before the talks," he said.

The foreign minister said that preparations were under way for foreign women and children to leave Iraq but did not provide a specific timetable.

In an interview with the French daily Le Figaro before his talks in Amman, Aziz gave no indication that Iraq was ready to make concessions. He said the United Nations could initiate indirect talks between Iraq and the other parties involved in the conflict, as it did in the Iraq-Iran war.

Iraq and Iran held intermittent peace talks for years through the United Nations while they fought their war.

"I know Perez de Cuellar," he told the French daily. "We worked a lot together during the Iraq-Iran war. When the situation looked stalled. The secretary

general presented notes and documents to the two governments."

"This method allowed the two parties to maintain a discussion in spite of everything else," Aziz told the paper.

Perez de Cuellar said Thursday he saw indications that Iraq could be flexible in talks to resolve the crisis. He cited what he called Iraq's humanitarian gesture in allowing foreign women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait to leave.

In his Le Figaro interview, Aziz repeated Iraq's threat to use whatever weapons come to hand if attacked. "If you threaten Iraq with your ships and planes, I will be free of all moral commitment to the French, American or British governments," he said.

Aziz denied that the proclamation of Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province, announced three days before his meeting with Perez de Cuellar in Jordan, was a provocation.

The U.N. secretary-general was aware Iraq decided to merge with Kuwait on Aug. 8, he said. In Iraq's view, the Arab World had not been given time to work out a solution to the crisis but still had time to replace foreign troops in the region with an Arab force, he said.

"Arab troops should be stationed where foreign troops are now. Saudi Arabia brought the latter in because it said it was threatened by Iraq," he said.

"We are ready to give it all possible guarantees. But if the Saudis want to feel even more safe, then they can call for an Arab force to relieve that of the United States."

Asked if that force could be sent to Kuwait, the foreign minister laughed and said: "Don't forget that all the troops in Iraq are Arab troops."

Aziz also appeared to suggest a massive land deal that would redraw the 20th century map of the Arabian Peninsula.

"In 1930, Kuwait City was no more than a collection of mud huts," Aziz said. "How can it have such vast territory?" The emirate, he said, was purely an artificial invention of British colonialism.

"If Saudi Arabia claimed Qatar as part of its territory, I would support the claim. I say that frankly because Qatar has no reality in history."

## Bush

(Continued from page 1)

quoted sources as saying U.S. allies fear that anything less than crushing Iraqi military forces would leave Baghdad's conventional, chemical and nuclear weapons intact and would put Saudi Arabia and the smaller Gulf states at Iraq's mercy once U.S. and other foreign troops are withdrawn.

"There is no doubt that the Saudis and the Israelis fear that the United States will accept a deal that leaves a wounded rather than a defeated tiger in place in Baghdad," the newspaper said it was told by a "well-placed" U.S. source.

"The Times quoted its sources as saying Turkey, the exiled Kuwaiti government, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman were among the countries urging the United States to use force."

Saudi leaders have said publicly that they oppose an offensive U.S. military operation, but the Times quoted its source as saying, "... in reality, they are talking something different."

Bush told reporters in Washington that his analyses have a hard time determining whether the standoff with Iraq will end up in a shooting war.

"It's so hard to answer that question because of the unpredictable nature of Saddam Hussein himself," he said.

"It's very hard to predict... but I think the answer is to have the forces in place to be ready," he added. "I don't know what is in this man's mind."

The Bush administration could cite alleged violations to justify any military action against Iraq, according to administration sources quoted by the Los Angeles Times.

The administration also might make the "capture" of Saddam Hussein and his key advisers for "trial" one of the objectives of the U.S. buildup in the Gulf, officials told the Times.

"Some (legal) action has to be taken, both because we have a right to bring him to justice and to deter him from further violations," said an administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the short term, administration officials said the preparation of charges was intended to deter Saddam from taking further action against thousands of Westerners in Iraq and Kuwait.

## King meets Thatcher

(Continued from page 1)

Gonzalez, after visiting five North African states.

At a press conference in Madrid, King Hussein said he believed some progress had been made to defuse the crisis and he hoped to meet Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein at the end of his mission.

"There is a certain basis for an agreement, in line with the United Nations resolution," he said. "I have tried to impress on my Arab colleagues that hard positions provoke hard positions and risk leading to a point of no return."

In the Moroccan capital King Hussein held two rounds of talks with King Hassan, who has sent 1,200 troops to Saudi Arabia. The troops are joining Arab forces dispatched by an Arab League summit to defend Saudi Arabia against possible Iraqi attack.

Both Britain and France, which have sent warships and combat planes to join the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf, have rejected negotiations with Baghdad unless it frees all foreigners held in Kuwait and Iraq and withdraws from Kuwait.

The King said in Madrid he had visited the five African countries over the past few days to persuade Arab leaders to avoid confrontation.

"I have tried to impress on my Arab colleagues that hard positions provoke hard positions and risk leading to a point of no return," he said.

Gonzalez told newsmen he believed some progress had been made in diplomatic efforts to defuse the crisis.

"There is a certain basis for an agreement, in line with the United Nations resolution," he said.

Thatcher, who flew to Madrid from Rabat, said he hoped to meet at the end of his peace mission.

"I will return home with what I hope will be a common understanding so that we can move ahead collectively," he said.

But he played down reports that he was promoting a specific peace plan.

"My ideas are not yet — to the

best of my knowledge — firm beyond the give and take between Arab leaders. We are not yet developing a specific plan," the King said.

"What we are doing is building a comprehensive position, arrived at by being compatible with what others want," he said.

"We are trying to avert the danger of an explosion, and then through active diplomacy find a quick solution to the conflict."

King Hussein said he hoped the principle of an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis would become a blueprint for resolving other conflicts in the Middle East.

"Our region has sometimes been forgotten and I hope that the principles established for this crisis can be applied to others in the area so as to achieve a lasting peace there," he said.

The Spanish government Friday voiced its appreciation for King Hussein's efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis and to reach common stands for finding a balanced solution, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Gonzalez voiced his government's appreciation for King Hussein's positive role in trying to solve the crisis and affirmed the keenness of Spain to reach a peaceful settlement to the crisis.

The Spanish prime minister agreed with King Hussein that every effort should be exerted to stop escalating the crisis to pave the way for a peaceful solution," Petra said.

He pointed out to the importance of international cooperation and expressed Spain's hope that the Arabs would be able to reach a balanced solution.

Representatives of the Jordanian, and Palestinian communities in Spain, the Arab Spanish Cultural Society, the Arab Spanish Under-standing Committee and representatives of the Arab communities in Spain gathered in Madrid to meet the King before he left for London.

They voiced their appreciation and support for Jordan's constant stance on the causes of the Arab Nation.

### APPEAL

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The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

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Donations are received daily until 7:00 p.m.

## Evacuees — 'human disaster'

(Continued from page 1)

post, and the authorities face the mammoth task of sheltering, feeding and transporting them.

According to U.N. officials in Geneva, pledges of cash and in-kind assistance to Jordan to help cope with the situation reached \$151 million by Thursday, but it was not clear whether a Saudi aid of \$60 million given to Egypt was part of the total amount for resettling Egyptians who left Iraq and Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi takeover.

Crown Prince Hassan made an appeal Thursday to the world community to send planes and ships to repatriate the 75,000 evacuees stranded in Jordan.

"Children are going to die out there in the next few days," the Crown Prince was quoted as saying after inspecting the Ruweisshid evacuee camp sites.

Since Monday Jordan has tried to stem the flow of evacuees at the border from coming to the capital, fearing that more evacuees would make the situation more difficult.

"We can't possible handle more people than this. Neither our economic nor our human resources will allow for it," said one government official working at the border.

Official envoys of several Asian countries are saying that they are doing all they can to repatriate their nationals and relieve Jordan of what one official called the "huge human burden."

The Pakistani ambassador in Amman said Friday that 3,500 of his countrymen were housed at the Amman International Fair Centre, which the embassy

had rented. Another 7,500 are located between Ruweisshid and Amman, he said.

Specially chartered flights have already airlifted 4,500 Pakistanis home in the past weeks. "On Sept. 3 we expect that one of our ships will carry 2,000 people home from Aqaba," the Pakistani ambassador said Friday.

The government of India is sending a minimum of four chartered planes daily to Amman.

"About 900 of our citizens are being flown out daily," said an Indian diplomat Friday. "We have asked our embassy in Baghdad to slow down the number of people coming over so that we can reduce the numbers staying here," he added.

The diplomat said that about 9,000 Indians were awaiting flights out and that about 155,000 were still in Kuwait and 10,000 in Iraq.

"So far we have evacuated 8,000 people on 26 flights and we still have a whole lot more to go," said the diplomat. "We are exploring the possibility of repatriating our citizens by way of sea through the ports of Aqaba, Basra or Iran."

Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapas Friday visited Jordan for talks on the plight of 5,500 Filipinos stranded in Jordan.

About 2,900 Filipinos have already been repatriated. Seven thousand Filipino nationals are still in Kuwait and 4,000 are in Baghdad, according to the Philippine ambassador in Amman, who says the bill for taking care of the Filipino evacuees in Jordan is being footed entirely by his government.

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## Poland fears mounting fuel costs

WARSAW (R) — The Gulf crisis and lower Soviet oil supplies will lift domestic fuel prices in Poland this year, but not cause petrol shortages. Foreign Trade Minister Marcin Swiechicki said Friday.

"We have enough money to buy petrol. Only higher demand or panic on the (domestic) market might cause temporary trouble," the official news agency PAP quoted him as saying.

State oil distributor CPN has announced price rises of 33 per cent for petrol and 16 per cent for diesel fuel from Saturday, raising them to 3,200 zlotys (34 cents) and 2,200 zlotys (23 cents) per litre.

An international embargo of Iraqi oil, which Baghdad was supplying to repay its debt to Warsaw, has deprived Poland of 750,000 tonnes of crude this year.

Swiechicki said the Soviet Union, which is cutting back supplies to East European countries, was also behind on contracted oil deliveries to Poland.

"In view of our lost Iraqi oil deliveries, the reduced oil supplies from the Soviet Union, which are two million tonnes overdue, and higher world oil prices, the domestic price of petrol will go up this year. However, no petrol shortages are expected in Poland," Swiechicki said.

## Egypt cuts oil prices

CAIRO (R) — Egypt, its economy taking a beating from the Gulf crisis, cut oil prices by \$5 Thursday after a series of increases earlier last month, a senior Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) official said.

He told Reuters the cut was effective immediately and would be valid until further notice.

The cut brought down the prime Zeit and Ras Bahar grades to \$25.80 from \$30.80 a barrel and the benchmark Suez blend to \$25.50.

No-OPEC Egypt produces about 900,000 barrels per day (b/d) of which it exports 500,000 b/d.

The Gulf crisis has virtually ended the flow of at least \$1 billion sent home every year by nearly two million Egyptians employed in Iraq and Kuwait.

Thousands are returning to Egypt empty handed and will soon start looking for already scarce jobs.

## M.E. tension causes new fuel price hike in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — The government has raised fuel prices 8.9 per cent, the third increase in a month, in response to the ongoing crisis in the Middle East.

The increase, in conjunction with hikes in electricity and postal rates, was expected. Observers have expressed concern that higher public tariffs will jeopardise the government's anti-inflation strategy.

National secretary of economy, Joao Maia, said the increase was effective Friday.

The pump price of gasoline increased from 43.32 cruzeiros a litre (\$2.27 a gallon) to 47.17 cruzeiros (\$2.48 a gallon).

The price of pure alcohol fuel rose from 33.51 cruzeiros a litre (\$1.74 a gallon) to 36.49 cruzeiros (\$1.89 a gallon).

Production costs for alcohol fuel are double those for gasoline but cheaper for consumers due to government subsidies. Some 4.5 million vehicles, one-third of the country's total, run on alcohol made from domestically grown sugar cane.

Rising international oil prices following the Iraqi take over of Kuwait have hit this South American giant hard. Brazil produces an average of 665,000 barrels of oil daily, but must import another 550,000 barrels to meet domestic needs.

Iraq was Brazil's top oil supplier, selling 140,000 barrels per day, before President Fernando Collor de Mello ordered a halt to oil imports from Iraq in accordance with U.N. sanctions.

Combined oil purchases from Iraq and Kuwait, which sold Brazil 30,000 barrels daily before the presidential order, met over 35 per cent of import needs.

The hike was the third in August after fuel prices were sharply increased and then frozen March 15, when Collor declared an economic austerity plan to bring down record inflation of over 5,000 per cent in the year before he took office.

Inflation has dropped sharply since then, rising 10.79 per cent in July. However, the impact of higher oil prices, along with other

problems, has caused the government to raise its estimate of August inflation from 8.5 per cent to 10.3 per cent in the past three weeks.

Luis Octavio da Motta Veiga, president of the state oil monopoly Petrobras, has been pressuring the government for a fuel hike of 33 per cent.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello, concerned about the impact on the inflation front, has opposed such a steep hike.

In addition to the fuel price increase, the government also raised electricity and postal rates, by 8.9 per cent and 9.5 per cent, respectively.

With the exception of fuel, all public tariffs had been frozen since March, and all are seriously out of line with real costs. Before the increase, electricity was estimated to be underpriced by 20 per cent and postal rates by 78.5 per cent.

Observers here say the government is trying to control inflation by keeping public tariffs artificially cheap.

## Irish examiner wins breathing space for Goodman beef empire

DUBLIN (R) — An Irish high court-appointed examiner who some breathing space Thursday for the debt-ridden Goodman International, Europe's biggest beef exporter that has been hard hit by the Gulf crisis.

Under new legislation rushed through parliament Tuesday, examiners can now check the financial health of ailing firms, protect them from their creditors and seek to put together a rescue package.

Goodman International, the privately-owned group of Irish "beef barons" Larry Goodman, owes 460 million pounds (\$782 million) to banks around the world.

Iraq in turn owes 180 million pounds (\$307 million) to Goodman International, a major beef processor and exporter which accounts for five per cent of Ireland's gross national product.

The collapse of the Goodman empire with its one billion pound (\$1.7 billion) annual turnover would pose major problems to the Irish economy which is heavily dependent on farming.

Specialist appointed examiner, Peter Fitzpatrick said in a statement Thursday "I have been negotiating with the group's

bankers to ensure sufficient funds are available for normal business purposes and to pay existing and future creditors essential to the continuity of the business."

Following those negotiations with the group's principal bankers, I have today received high court approval to obtain sufficient banking facilities which are now in place to ensure the group has adequate funding for the day-to-day needs of the business," he added.

Publicly quoted Food Industries PLC, the grain and dairy business in which Larry Goodman has a 63 per cent stake, also said in a statement that it had "received approaches from a number of sources, domestic and international, expressing interest

in acquiring part or all of the group."

"While no immediate action on these approaches is contemplated, the board have appointed (Dublin-based) NCB Corporate Finance to act as its advisers," the statement added.

The highly secretive and tough-talking Goodman was known as "the milk sheikh" and "sugar daddy" for his efforts to build up a multinational food group but his British stock market investments have failed to pay off.

Last week he sold at a hefty loss his stake in the British dairy group Unigate and on paper he faces further major losses from his investment in the troubled commodities and sugar conglomerate Berisford International.

## U.S. banks tighten credit standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Federal Reserve (Fed) survey shows U.S. banks have continued to tighten their lending standards in the last three months because of a weakening economy and problems in several industries.

"Domestic respondent banks indicated that since May they have further tightened lending standards and terms with respect to non-merger-related business loans," according to the survey.

It found that the tighter standards were particularly noticeable for medium-sized firms, but also significant for small and large businesses.

The survey polled senior loan officers at 60 domestic banks and 18 branches of foreign institutions.

"Branches and agencies of foreign banks reported that, on balance, they too have moved to restrict the availability of business credit," the survey found.

"By far the most important reasons domestic respondents gave for tightening their credit standards in the last three months were a less favourable economic outlook and industry-specific problems," the survey said.

Other reasons included more stringent money supplies due to problem loans and regulatory pressures.

"About three-quarters of respondents reported that they had imposed tighter credit standards for applications to finance commercial office building in the last three months," the survey said.

Most banks reported their willingness to make general purpose and consumer installment loans to individuals was unchanged.

### Passport Lost

A Sri Lanka passport number H 0068974 was lost Friday night with JD 35 is it. The passport belongs to Talpe Ligange Shelton. Other important papers also lost.

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## Gulf crisis may spur Istanbul to introduce offshore banking

ANKARA (R) — The Gulf crisis could add new impetus to Turkey's plans to make Istanbul an offshore banking centre, following a collapse of business in Bahrain.

"We (were) already studying regulations to allow offshore banking in Istanbul... in a new free trade zone," Finance Minister Adnan Kahveci told Reuters.

"Now we have an excellent opportunity," he noted.

The necessary regulations would be proposed to parliament soon, he said.

"Between Singapore and London, I think there's tremendous potential for Istanbul to become a

major offshore centre," said David Carpita, general manager of Istanbul's Yatirim Bank.

"Banking confidence in the Gulf is badly shaken. It will take years for it to come back," he said.

Yatirim was active in Bahrain's offshore banking centre — the Middle East's biggest — before Iraq's takeover of Kuwait sent the market there into a tailspin.

"What we have seen so far is big flow (of banking business) out of the Gulf to usual places like Switzerland, the Channel Islands or Luxembourg," said another banker.

Discussing Istanbul as a poten-

tial centre, a Saudi-based banker said: "Excellent idea, a base in Europe with a Middle East time zone."

But Turkey would have to ease several regulations for Istanbul to become one of the world's 30 to 40 offshore financial centres.

It would need to introduce non-resident company status with tax exemption, full profit repatriation and freedom to keep 100 per cent of capital in foreign exchange.

Foreign banks operating in Turkey currently have to keep their capital in Turkish lira, a major constraint since inflation — now at 56.3 per cent annually

— constantly erodes capital.

Western bankers say a decade of liberal reforms pioneered by President Turgut Ozal, prime minister from 1983 until last November, have transformed Turkey into a regional economic powerhouse and changed the face of banking and business.

Foreign exchange controls have been lifted, attracting over \$700 million of foreign cash last year of which the bulk landed on Istanbul's stock exchange.

"A regulatory infrastructure for offshore banking could be ready within a week, just with one signal from Mr. Ozal," Canevi said.

## Venezuela sharply raises oil production

CARACAS (R) — Venezuela announced Thursday that it had sharply raised oil production following an OPEC agreement that allows members to turn up the taps and ensure plentiful supplies during the Gulf crisis.

Andres Sosa Pietri, president of the state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela (PDVSA), said Venezuelan oil output was running at 2.26 million barrels per day (b/d) Thursday.

The production increase follows an agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Wednesday to allow members including Venezuela to raise their output above their quotas.

Venezuela had previously been bound by a 1.945 million b/d production quota although the government last week authorised the state oil company to step up output and store the excess crude.

A top oil industry executive earlier told Reuters that Venezuela expected to be pumping 2.3 million b/d of oil within two weeks and to be producing 2.5 million barrels by the end of the year.

Sosa Pietri also forecast that Venezuelan oil exports would reach 2.475 million b/d by 1993 and be yielding the country \$15 billion annually.

## Gorbachev dismisses senior minister over cigarette shortages

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev dismissed one of his top ministers Thursday, blaming him for the acute shortage of cigarettes that has caused demonstrations in Moscow and other cities.

Vladilen Nikitin, a first deputy prime minister and head of the State Procurement Commission, was relieved of his duties one day after Gorbachev summoned him and other officials to demand an explanation for the shortages.

TASS news agency said a presidential decree linked the dismissal to "the failure to take measures to halt the decline in tobacco production and allowing disruption in the tobacco industry, leading to irregularities in supply in many parts of the country and unplanned expenditure of foreign currency."

TASS did not say who would replace Nikitin but indicated his dismissal would be submitted to parliament for approval.

The decree urged the government and other top state bodies to adopt without delay measures to correct the situation, including the introduction of new prices for tobacco producers to boost production.

Soviet authorities tried to ease the shortage last week by chartering a trainload of Bulgarian cigarettes for Moscow smokers.

Bot long queues have still been forming each morning outside the pavement kiosks dotting the capital.

The patience of Soviet consumers, already severely tried by chronic shortages of food, clothing, petrol, furniture and other basic goods, has snapped with the disruption of cigarette supplies.

Demonstrators have repeatedly halted traffic in Moscow and other cities, even erecting barricades and building bonfires on Leningrad's principal thoroughfare.

Gorbachev Wednesday said he considered the explanations offered for the shortages "unconvincing and insubstantial."

Officials, he said, had been guilty of "irresponsibility and negligence affecting millions of people."

Officials blame shortages of cigarette filters and stoppages at factories.

Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak last week said the shortages were contrived to discredit new radical local governments. Television in the city showed film of what it said was tobacco deliberately thrown away in waste ground.

As head of the State Procurement Commission, Nikitin was responsible for monitoring Soviet agriculture and sales of farm commodities to the state, including tobacco.

## Perrier to clarify labelling

PARIS (R) — French mineral water company source Perrier, surrendering on a point of principle, has finally agreed to change the labelling on its distinctive green bottles.

Dominique Airola, head of the group's marketing and industrial section, has told journalists that by early November worldwide supplies of the fogging drink would no longer claim to be "naturally carbonated."

Instead they will bear the legend "natural mineral water fortified with gas from the spring," as Perrier does not bubble straight from the spring into the bottle.

"We had to conform to European and French legislation on labelling," Airola, managing director at Perrier's Societe Generale de Grandes Sources d'Eaux Minerales Francaises, told Reuters Thursday.

Perrier has been under pressure to tighten up its labelling since a contamination scare in February shed unwelcome light on its bottling methods.

The publicity-sby company was forced to recall 160 million bottles after traces of benzene, a hydrocarbon suspected of causing cancer, were found in some supplies bottled at its plant in Vergeze, southern France.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 30, 1990  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	125.2	126.0
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	454.7	457.4
Pound Sterling	1268.3	1276.1	Dutch guilder	372.5	374.7
Deutschmark	419.7	422.2	Swedish crown	114.1	114.8
Swiss franc	507.6	510.6	Italian lira (for 100)	56.7	57.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	205.3	206.5

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8980/90	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1480.90	Canadian dollar	
	1.5630/35	Deutschmarks	
	1.7615/20	Dutch guilders	
	1.2945/55	Swiss francs	
	32.04/09	Belgian francs	
	5.2440/90	French francs	
	1161/1162	Italian lire	
	144.05/15	Japanese yen	
	5.7540/90	Swedish crowns	
	6.0575/0625	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9885/9935	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	387.80/388.30	U.S. dollars	

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# S. Africa threatens to cut water, power supply to black townships

Police minister predicts more violence

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa's white government threatened Friday to cut off electricity and water supplies immediately to rebellious black townships which are behind in their utility payments.

Soweto, the biggest township in the country, escaped the threat when residents agreed to end a five-year boycott of rent and services payments.

Transvaal province officials who met black leaders there said they would waive 515 million rand (\$198 million) in arrears and agreed on terms for future payments.

But the threat to power and water supplies loomed over many smaller, volatile communities around Johannesburg where 500 people were killed this month in factional fighting.

Payment boycotts in protest over apartheid and poor services have brought to the brink of financial ruin many black municipalities.

Black councils, seen by many residents as collaborators with apartheid, have continued to pay for water and electricity while boycotts cut off their income.

But Planning Minister Hernus Kriel warned blacks that the government would cut off vital bridging loans to councils Friday even if this meant utilities were cut off.

Asked at a news conference if this would not aggravate tension in the townships Kriel said: "No, where in the world do you get something for nothing."

"We hope this move won't increase the level of violence but we can't go on like this."

The right-wing white town council of Carolina in eastern Transvaal turned off light and water for a township earlier this week, but the provincial authority paid outstanding bills and services were restored.

The liberal Star newspaper commented: "To cut off the townships' lights and water 'until they see sense' might seem, to some, like appropriate retaliatory justice."

"Yet it is a dangerous and equally crude response which can lead to chaos and confrontation."

The state electricity utility Eskom and the regional water authority have said they will not act quickly to disconnect the mass of black consumers, despite the

tough official line.

Lawyers said service cuts may breach health laws.

There have been rent boycotts in about 50 townships around the country but the problem is worst in Transvaal where they have cost 834 million rand (\$320 million) since 1986.

Meanwhile, the police minister warned Friday that fighting among black factions could resume at any time and bush South Africa into a spiral of bloodshed.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok also warned that rising crime could trigger violence between whites and blacks. He said police were doing all they could to prevent a new outbreak of fighting.

Vlok said the country was tense after faction fighting in black townships around Johannesburg left at least 518 people dead. He said the tension was being stoked by strikes, black consumer boycotts and terrorist attacks.

"These tendencies are unacceptable. In a new South Africa, South Africans will just have to exercise more tolerance towards one another," Vlok told a

provincial congress of the governing National Party in Durban.

"Order, peace and stability remain prerequisites in the process of building a new South Africa," he said.

Police said Friday the Johannesburg townships were quite violent. Violence erupted on Aug. 12 between Xhosa linked to the African National Congress and Zulus supporting the conservative Inkatha Movement.

Fighting raged in the townships for more than two weeks with rival groups battling with axes, spears, guns and knives. The government last week imposed emergency restrictions on the townships and sent in troops to end police.

Vlok Friday denied allegations that police had sided with Inkatha during the fighting. He said police made every effort to be impartial, but there was often little they could do in the face of massive violence.

"We are not angels and we also make mistakes. It is, however, unacceptable to accuse the South African police of being the cause of the violence and unrest," he said.

"There are a couple of organisations that are powerful and popular enough to cause us some trouble. The worst thing about them is that they are not under anyone's control," he said.

President Mikhail Gorbachev had planned to use the Soviet army against the many armed groups that had grown from conflict with ethnic Azeris over the last two years. But the republic's new nationalist leader Levon Ter-Petrosyan persuaded him to leave the clean-up operation in his hands.

The Soviet army, target of many militant attacks in the past few months, took no part in Thursday's action.

But Ter-Petrosyan must control armed groups over the next six weeks in his capital and on the Azerbaijani border if he is to state of intervention by Moscow. Ethnic conflict has already cost over 200 lives in the region.

Television showed armed men in paramilitary clothing patrolling Yerevan's streets, but all belonged to groups that had accepted parliamentary authority and were now submitting to the command of a new National Guard.

Members of the guard were shown standing with rifles at the elegant city centre building, formerly a library, that had served as the ANA's headquarters.

In the mountains on the Azerbaijani border, scene of fierce clashes over the last month, matters were less clear.

Harare identified one group that appeared ready to continue resistance as the "avengers" group, based in the Marumby region, near the Azerbaijani border.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said Interior Ministry troops had seized marauders and other arms during raids in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, which has been the focus of conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Nagorno-Karabakh, under direct military rule, is a largely Armenian-populated enclave within Azerbaijan. Yerevan demands that the territory be transferred to its control and accuses Azerbaijan of trying to break resistance by disrupting links with Armenia.

"As far as effective action and impacts, the report is weak," said Jeremy Leggett, science director for Greenpeace International.

"But the significant achievement is that finally the United States has acknowledged the global warming is actually happening."

The United States, the largest producer of carbon dioxide, has blocked any international agreement to place mandatory restrictions on emission of gases which lead to the "greenhouse effect."

Carbon dioxide, produced from the burning of fossil fuels such as oil and coal, helps trap warm air around the Earth, turning the atmosphere into a "greenhouse," scientists say.

Fred Bernthal, head of the National Science Foundation and the 25-person U.S. delegation at the climate conference, said, "We are certain of the following: emissions resulting from human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of the greenhouse gases."

He added, "all things being equal, (the greenhouse effect) might lead to global warming."

Bernthal said there is still uncertainty about the magnitude of the problem, and questions about when and where the effects would be felt.

But Bernthal admitted late Thursday night that U.S. acceptance of global warming theories in this document was a formal commitment and a step forward in policy.

Boliz agreed that the rate of heating, the magnitude and regional distribution are unclear. The scientific assessment lays the foundation for future negotiations on how to halt global warming.

## Armenian government crushes largest rebel group

MOSCOW (R) — The Armenian government said Friday it had crushed the rebel Armenian National Army (ANA), but feared further resistance from smaller splinter groups.

Interior Ministry troops occupied the headquarters of the ANA, the largest paramilitary group, without bloodshed Thursday. But armed militants remained ensconced in mountains near the border with Azerbaijan.

Armenian Vice-President Babken Harachian said ANA leaders were captured and smaller groups in the capital Yerevan and hills around had heeded calls to surrender.

But he said he feared Friday's funeral of a parliamentary deputy, whose assassination Wednesday triggered the clampdown, could provide a flashpoint for violence.

"Unfortunately not all weapons that were in the ANA's hands have been found," Harachian told the Estonian News Service.

"There are a couple of organisations that are powerful and popular enough to cause us some trouble. The worst thing about them is that they are not under anyone's control," he said.

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## Shevardnadze begins week-long Asian tour

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began Friday a week-long Asian tour to shore up relations with three of the Soviet Union's neighbors.

His first stop in China, whose Communist leaders have criticized reforms initiated by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Shevardnadze will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in the northeastern city of Harbin to discuss events in the Gulf, Cambodia and Europe, especially German unification.

Gorbachev's 1989 visit to China encouraged pro-democracy demonstrations camping out in Peking's Tiananmen Square. A few days after Gorbachev's departure, Chinese army troops crushed the movement, killing hundreds of students and others.

On Sunday and Monday, Shevardnadze planned to visit North Korea, a longtime Soviet ally that also has been critical of the political changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

North Korea, one of the world's last hard-line Communist countries, is especially unhappy over Gorbachev's overtures to its bitter enemy, South Korea. Gorbachev met with South Korean President Roh Tae-woo in San Francisco in June and the two countries have been working to establish diplomatic ties.

North Korean leaders have denounced the warming relations, warning that it would "serve the belligerent policy of the U.S. imperialists." They contend that the United States wants to keep the Korean peninsula divided so it can keep its military bases there to threaten Asia.

Shevardnadze is scheduled to arrive Tuesday in Japan, and Soviet Foreign Ministry official said he would lay the groundwork for a visit by Gorbachev next year and push for a peace treaty formally ending World War II.

Relations between the two countries have long been strained over Japan's demand that the Soviet Union return the Kuril Islands, a small chain the Soviets seized in the last days of the war.

The islands, which stretch north from the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, are called the Japanese, although Moscow claims them historically as Russian territory. A delegation of Japanese officials visiting Moscow in July tried to raise the issue with Gorbachev, but he refused to discuss it.

Gorbachev said at the time that no one in the Soviet Union would say that it holds the territory of other nations, according to TASS.

"All this is confirmed by post-war documents. It was a severe war for all countries. International decisions were made on the basis of the postwar realities and we abide by them," TASS quoted him as saying.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin said last week that the islands should remain under Soviet control, but should be demilitarized.

"This is a place that doesn't deserve to be given up," he said during a visit to the islands, according to the independent news service Interfax.

Japan in recent years has sought to improve relations with the Soviet Union, and the two have increased economic, diplomatic and cultural exchanges. But Japan has held off on committing itself to large projects in the Soviet Union and on signing a peace treaty because of the dispute over the Kurils.

Shevardnadze also plans to attend an international conference scheduled between Tuesday and Friday in the Soviet port of Vladivostok. The conference will focus on the Asian Pacific region.

But work to tear down other barricades near the bridge stopped abruptly Thursday after Mohawk leaders alleged "harassment" by police and whites.

Mohawk leaders said Thursday they made significant concessions to end the dispute at Kahnawake, a reserve near the Mercier Bridge, and at the Kahnawake Reserve near Oka.

However, Mohawk chief Joe Norton told reporters at the Mercier Bridge that shipments of food and medicine were being blocked from entering the Kahnawake Reserve, both by angry residents of the area and by the police.

"We can still close the Mercier Bridge again," he warned.

Chief Billy Two Rivers said Mohawks have been asked to give up too much.

"Maybe some of the white people didn't see Indian blood, but unfortunately we can't give them everything," he said.

Quebec provincial police denied accusations of harassment. "I can categorically state that no food is being kept out of Kahnawake whatsoever," said Capt. Donald Roy, an army spokesman.

The standoff began July 11, when the Quebec provincial police stormed an Oka barricade manned by Mohawks trying to block the expansion of a golf course on land they consider ancestral. The police were repulsed and one officer killed, but it is still not clear who shot him.

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## Column 800000

### Bucharest wages war on rats

BUCHAREST (R) — The Romanian capital has declared a \$300,000 war on rats. Rats multiplied rapidly in the last years of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, who was executed in December, because few chemical poisons were brought into the country under his drive to cut imports. The rodents forage in garbage bins and scurry under the gleaming Western cars outside luxury hotels at night. "We have blown the whistle, and now it's for the town hall to do its job and launch an all-out war to rid the city of rats," said Rodica Tulbure, head of the Health Ministry's Preventive Medicine Centre. She said the government had given the town hall \$300,000 to kill rats and improve garbage collection.

Diana Rigg seeks divorce

LONDON (AP) — Actress Diana Rigg is seeking a divorce from her husband Archie Stirling, her agent has said. The agent, Jean Diamond, refused to comment on the reasons for the split. Miss Rigg, 52, married the 49-year-old Stirling in 1982. They have a daughter, Rachel, 13. The actress recently starred in a British television drama, Mother Love, as a possessive and manipulative mother. Trained as a classical actress, she gained fame as Emma Peel in the television spy-spoof, the Avengers.

Japanese graft dead man's skin on Soviet boy

TOKYO (R) — Japanese surgeons Thursday grafted the skin of a dead man onto a badly burned Soviet boy flown in from the Soviet island of Sakhalin, doctors said. Eight surgeons performed the four-hour operation on three-year-old Konstantin Skoropyshin at Sapporo Medical College Hospital in Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Konstantin, who was accidentally scalded with boiling water, suffered burns to more than 80 percent of his body, received skin graft taken from his own head and the body of a Japanese man who died recently. A Japanese coastguard plane flew Konstantin to Sapporo after a plea for help from the authorities on Sakhalin, north of Hokkaido.

Fan admits sending threatening letters to actress

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 42-year-old fan accused of sending 212 letters signed "your secret admirer" to U.S. actress Stephanie Zimbalist pleaded guilty to mailing threatening communications. Under the terms of a plea agreement, Michael Shields, 42, could be sentenced to six months to a year in prison and ordered to stay 170 metres away from and not to communicate with 18 people, including Zimbalist, a star of the television series Remington Steele. The others include members of Zimbalist's family and the prosecutor and a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent involved in the case. Zimbalist, 31, daughter of Effrem Zimbalist Jr., who starred in the long-running television series The F.B.I., is one of several U.S. actresses and actors plagued by obsessed fans in recent years. Roberta Schaffer, a star of the series My Sister Sam, was shot dead and an alleged obsessed fan is awaiting trial. Theresa Saldana, who starred in the film Defiance, was stabbed by a Scott's drifter, Arthur Jackson, and a shipping clerk, Tina Ledbetter, was accused of sending nearly 6,000 threatening letters to actor Michael J. Fox.

Live python, tiger skins seized from Chinese restaurant

DHAKA (R) — A live 25-foot-long (7.5 metre) python and a large stock of animal skins were seized from a Chinese restaurant in Bangladesh's Chittagong port city, police said. The 20-kilogram python was found along with raw and processed skins of royal Bengal tigers, bears, deer, wolves and lizards piled in the backyard of the Tai Wah Restaurant, they said. "The huge stock of contraband was awaiting export by illegal traders," one police officer told reporters. The manager and staff of the restaurant were being questioned but no one has been arrested. Forestry officials said tiger skins smuggled to Singapore and other countries fetch up to \$1,600 each. Hunting or selling wildlife has been banned in Bangladesh since 1982.

## Mazowiecki seeks support in Gdansk

GDANSK, Poland (AP) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and five cabinet ministers returned to Solidarity's birthplace, pleading for support from workers disillusioned with the East Bloc's first non-Communist government.

The 3½-hour meeting at the Gdansk shipyard was an emotional and sometimes tense confrontation on the anniversary of August 1980 strikes that helped to break Communists' monopoly on power throughout Eastern Europe.

The six government officials met workers in BHP Hall, where on Aug. 31, 1980, Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa and his top advisers, including Mazowiecki, signed the first accord between a Communist government and an independent workers' movement.

But since winning control of the government last year, Walesa and Mazowiecki have been locked in a bitter political battle. Walesa was absent Thursday because, he said earlier, he did not want to distract from the prime minister's appearance.

At a news conference, Walesa said he is still fighting for fulfillment of the 1980 strike's 21 demands, which he says will bring Poland to full democracy by the holding of free elections for parliament and the presidency.

Walesa accused the Mazowiecki government, which he helped create, of moving too slowly to replace the present parliament, where 65 per cent of the seats were reserved for the subsequently dissolved Communist Party or its allies. He also said the arrangement under which former Communist First Secretary Wojciech Jaruzelski is serving as president is "outdated."

At BHP hall, Mazowiecki was asked to explain why his Solidarity-led government has not moved faster to create a free-market economy and dismiss Communist holdovers from government and managerial positions.

Without mentioning Walesa by name, Mazowiecki replied: "This government has not been, is not and will not, hinder political changes... we have been speeding up, not by arguing but by acting."

He said he hoped a parliamentary debate in September on a date for elections and adopting a new constitution would be carried out in an atmosphere of "political culture."

Mazowiecki skirted the issue of whether he would be a candidate for president, opposing Walesa's all-but-announced candidacy.

"I will answer this question formally, when the put forward comes. But I think society should have the right to choose between candidates," he said.

satellites exploded shortly after takeoff on Feb. 23, destroying its payload.

The programme bounced back July 24 when an Ariane rocket placed two French and German communications satellites into orbit without problem.

The next launch is expected sometime in October, with two American satellites — SBS-6 and Galaxy 6 — aboard.

Eutelsat 2-F1 is the first of a new series of five satellites designed to replace the current Eutelsat 1 series. It will channel telephone, telex and television communications to 600 million people in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East.

Skyнет 4C, the third satellite of the Skyнет 4 system, will handle tactical and strategic communications for the British military.

Without the part working, the telescope might not be able to beam back scientific information. Experts estimated repairs could take a day to a week.

Astronauts plan to use the Astro observatory to look for invisible ultraviolet and X-ray emissions from faraway stars.

The mission will be the first of a shuttle since April, when Discovery placed the Hubble space telescope into orbit.

A month later — in the space programme's biggest setback since the shuttle Challenger exploded in 1986 — NASA grounded its shuttle fleet for inspection and repairs after struggling with mysterious fuel leaks that appeared in two of the three crafts.

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